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Lamont challenges Major over ERM



By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

IN A frank appraisal of the events of a year ago when Britain was forced out of the European exchange-rate mechanism, Norman Lamont says he considered resigning at the time but John Major had told him he did not want him to go. "Had I known how he would change his mind as he did, I would have done so," he says.

Writing in *The Times* on the anniversary of Black Wednesday, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer describes the collapse of Britain's ERM policy as "a humiliation for the government, the prime minister and myself". Mr Lamont calls on the prime minister to pull Britain out of future European Community talks on monetary union, reviving the Tory feud on Europe. Although both Mr Major and Kenneth Clarke have spoken frequently of the unrealistic timetable for monetary union they have chosen not to risk upsetting Britain's EC partners.

The humiliation of Black Wednesday, by Norman Lamont
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by renouncing it. In a message that will increase the likelihood of his becoming the unofficial leader of the Tory Euro-sceptics Mr Lamont urges Mr Major to state categorically that Britain will not participate in a single currency. He says that Britain entered

the ERM for the wrong reasons — because Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, wanted to demonstrate their European credentials — and suggests that he was preparing the ground for a suspension of membership.

Writing in *The Sun* today, Mr Lamont appears to be criticising Mr Major. "Given the right leadership, the British people could equal the best in the world."

Mr Lamont's latest intervention highlights the most embarrassing episode of Mr Major's premiership. It will add to the pressure on Mr Major as he prepares for a party conference that could be vital to his survival. With Mr Major's leadership under question, and renewed speculation at Westminster over whether he will face

a challenge in November, Mr Lamont has again raised an issue that the prime minister hoped could be put aside with the ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

Tory rightwingers last night suggested it was premature to talk of a challenge. Under new rules brought in after Margaret Thatcher's downfall 34 Tory MPs would have to write to the chairman of the 1922 committee requesting a contest.

Mr Lamont's words will strengthen his credentials with the Tory Euro-sceptics, who have been ambivalent about him because of his willingness to operate within the ERM. He says that even when the problems caused by German unification had been digested "I doubt if Europe will be able to return to fixed rates".

MINISTERS were under siege last night after an unexpected surge in prices punctured their boasts that Britain was moving into an inflation-free world.

The rise in the August RPI figure to 1.7 per cent, from 1.4 per cent in July, and disappointing retail sales figures wiped 5.8 billion off shares and sent the FTSE-100 index crashing 39 points to below the 3,000 barrier. Coming only 34 hours after the Chancellor cited success in the battle against inflation as justification for freezing the public sector pay bill next year, the latest figures were ammunition to his critics in the unions and the Opposition.

But John Major brushed the figures aside, insisting that they did not weaken the case for a pay squeeze and that the government would concentrate on keeping price rises in the 1 to 4 per cent target range.

"We have made great progress on inflation, and we are not going to throw it away," the prime minister said during a tour of Birmingham to rally support among party workers.

"We cannot allow the public sector pay bill to rise. Over the past two years the country has made great efforts, great sacrifices to get our economy back on a growing trend with low inflation. We are not going to throw that away now."

The Treasury insisted that, in a historical context, the inflation performance was encouraging. The figure had remained below 2 per cent all this year; the last time it was at this level was in 1967.

Stephen Dorrell, the financial secretary, came under the heaviest fire after his attempt on Tuesday to justify an end to automatic pay rises. "In an inflation-free world, this must be the expectation, not just for one year, not just in the public sector, but right across the

Prime minister brushes aside increase in inflation rate

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

economy year after year," he said then.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the TGWU transport union, said Mr Dorrell was living in an economic fantasy world and predicted an "industrial uprising" if the government held fast. Inflation was clearly increasing even before the impact of VAT on domestic fuel and possible tax increases in the November Budget, he said, adding: "A nil pay increase in the public sector means asking millions of low-paid workers to take a real wage cut."

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, said the figures exposed the nonsense of government claims that it had conquered inflation. Alan Jenkins, leader of Unison,

Inflation rises 23
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Divorce plan would cut out court battle

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL shake-up of the divorce laws aimed at allowing couples to split up formally within 12 months, provided they go to mediation, is to be unveiled by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, this autumn.

Couples who intend to divorce are likely to be required first to visit a "family advice centre", where they would be advised how to sort matters out without necessarily resorting to the law.

The plan for a national network of "first-stop" advice centres will be part of a package of measures to make divorce laws far less adversarial. Officials are preparing a green paper which is expected to scrap the "fault" basis of the divorce laws, as recommended by the Law Commission in its report on divorce reform in November 1990.

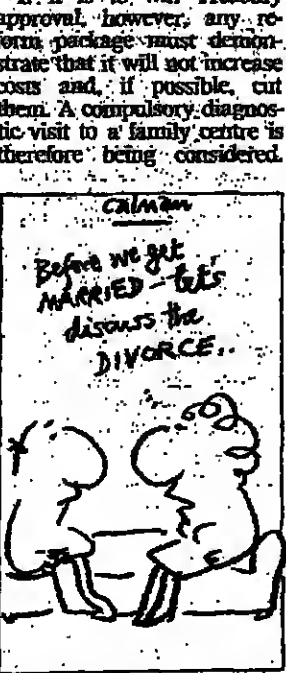
Instead of the present minimum two-year wait (unless adultery or unreasonable behaviour is alleged), couples would be able to obtain a divorce simply, without any need for allegations, after one year. During the 12-month cooling-off period they would sort out the arrangements for their children and finances.

Officials are looking at ways of creating a national network of family advice centres that would act both as information points and refer couples to mediators, counsellors or lawyers as appropriate. The proposals aim to dispense with the idea that lawyers are the first port of call when a marriage breaks down. Officials believe this would reduce the number of disputes that end in court and, as a result, cut the soaring legal aid bill.

Lord Mackay, who is consulting widely before drawing up the final options, is believed to have ruled out an earlier idea that all couples who intend to divorce should be forced go through medi-

tion or conciliation services. Nor is he thought to favour insisting that couples go to mediation before they can qualify for legal aid.

"If it is to win Treasury approval, however, any reform package must demonstrate that it will not increase costs and, if possible, cut them. A compulsory diagnostic visit to a family centre is therefore being considered."



According to financial circumstances. They might be referred for marital counselling, to organisations such as Relate or private counsellors, or for child guidance or legal advice. Unusually, the centre also provides joint appointments with solicitors so couples can see them together and, if they wish, couples can attend for information only, rather than legal advice.

Rosemary Carter, a solicitor and qualified mediator who works at the centre, said: "The service has excited quite a lot of interest, particularly its diagnostic service, which we use as a way of making sure people are directed through the right channels."

She said the service helped to keep divorce from escalating into a courtroom dispute. "If the service can get their hands on a couple, it is more likely the matter can be dealt with amicably. Mediation is not a panacea in every case. But if you can get couples to talk and agree on matters such as contact with children and residence, and then on financial matters with an order then drawn up by the lawyers, it can only be for the good of the family."

The first-stop family centre could be grafted on to existing mediation services: there are about 60 local services funded by a mixture of public money, grants, and fees from clients under the auspices of the National Association of Family Mediation and Conciliation Services. Last year, the association dealt with 16,000 people.

The Family Mediators' Association, which has about 300 members, said on page 2, col 5

Young engineer in the swing



Lucy Porter, 16, of Bath, demonstrating the swing she designed for handicapped children and which won her the Engineering Council's Young Engineer award

Girl friend says Florida couple 'had no chance'

By NICHOLAS WATT IN LONDON AND DAVID ADAMS IN TALLAHASSEE

THE girl friend of the British tourist murdered in Florida said yesterday that he did not stand a chance when armed robbers opened fire at point-blank range through the windows of their hire car.

Margaret Jagger, 34, from Wilsden, near Bradford, who was grazed by a bullet as she sat next to Gary Colley, said: "Whether we opened the window or closed it, we were still going to get killed."

The couple were resting in a car park at about 2.30am on Tuesday when two armed teenagers approached and tapped on the windows. As Mr Colley backed out to drive away, his car was blocked in and the teenagers fired their guns through windows on both sides, hitting Mr Colley in the neck and grazing Ms Jagger's right arm and chest. In an emotional phone call

to her mother in Bradford, West Yorks, Ms Jagger described the ordeal as she recovered at the mansion of Florida's governor. Afterwards her mother, Muriel Jagger, 66, said: "Margaret told me she had been very very fortunate. I think she will want to come home as soon as possible but we do not know when it will be because we do not know what is happening yet."

Police in Florida were yesterday searching for two suspects after their stolen car was found in Monticello, in northern Florida. Major Shelly Pymale, of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, said: "We found what we were looking for — some damage to the vehicle and a hubcap centre missing that matched a part that we found at the scene."

Police described the two gunmen as slender black youths about 15 to 17 years old, wearing baggy shorts and brightly coloured shirts. A third suspect is believed to have driven the getaway car.

Mr Colley's father yesterday urged American authorities to do more to protect tourists. Terry Colley, of Brighouse, West Yorkshire, said: "The United States is a sick country. There must be something there that can do to change things there."

The victim's mother, Brenda Armitage, who has remarried, said her son was devoted to Margaret and they loved travelling together. "They were always very careful and they knew how to take care of themselves. I won't say what I think of the killers. I don't hate them, not yet. I probably will later. I cannot even think properly yet."

Science joins music at the Albert Hall

By MARCUS BINNEY

THE Albert Hall is to take on a new role as a centre for scientific exhibitions. In plans to be announced this morning £20 million is to be spent on improvements to make the hall fit to host scientific conventions from around the world.

The chief executive, Patrick Deuchar, said yesterday: "Major changes and innovations are needed not only to the building itself but to the scope of its use and the way it appeals to the public if it is to remain the nation's village hall into the 21st century."

Mr Deuchar feels strongly that the Albert Hall's role as a focus of sciences as well as arts needs rejuvenating. "All the institutions on the south Kensington museum site, including the colleges of art and mining have formed a consortium with the aim of fulfilling Albert's dream of a centre of

world excellence in science and art," he said.

Despite the changes the Albert Hall will still be used for concerts and will remain home to the Proms. Mr Deuchar said: "Average attendances are 82 per cent and last year's surplus of £1.2m will increase this year to £1.4m. All this money can be reinvested in the building. Under our new plans the Albert Hall will become a forum for major scientific gatherings, exhibitions and displays."

The hall was built in 1867-71 and designed by officers of the Royal Engineers. It was originally conceived at the centrepiece of a trade exhibition in 1862 but abandoned on grounds of cost. The project was revived after the death of the prince consort and built with the Albert Memorial.

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Cartoons fail to make the EC laugh

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

DAFFY Duck, Bugs Bunny, Scooby Doo and Fred and Thelma Flintstone are poised to become embroiled in the first test-case of the European Commission's drive to ban American imports from the Continent's television screens. Less than 48 hours before the popular cartoon characters appear on The Cartoon Network, a new satellite channel due to be launched tomorrow, João de Deus Pinheiro, the EC commissioner for culture, has said that they are not welcome.

Senhor de Deus Pinheiro, in a letter to Peter Brooke, the heritage minister, demanded to know why Britain had granted Ted Turner, the founder of Cable News Network, a satellite broadcasting licence enabling him to beam cartoons into millions of European homes. He said the channel could be in breach of the EC's broadcasting directive, which requires that 51 per cent of all programmes should be of European origin.

Senhor de Deus Pinheiro, whose complaints are believed to have been prompted by the French, also has in his sights Mr Turner's other new satellite channel, TNT, featuring old MGM films.

His complaint is unlikely to receive a sympathetic hearing in Britain, which is rapidly establishing itself as the satellite capital of Europe. So far 50 "non-domestic" satellite channels have been set up in London.

The heritage department said it was satisfied that the Cartoon Network met all regulatory requirements.



Fred Flintstone: accused of breaking EC rules

Heads not amused by claim of bias against private schools



A sombre audience of headmasters for John Patten, right, the education secretary

Patten threatens university courses accused of boycott

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, threatened yesterday to halt teacher training courses at universities that refuse to send their students to independent schools.

At least two complaints of discrimination by universities against the independent sector are being investigated by the education department. Mr Patten refused to name the institutions concerned, but headmasters said Oxford University's education department was the worst offender.

Mr Patten made his announcement in a speech to the Headmasters' Conference in Oxford, where he was once a university lecturer. The involvement of Oxford will be doubly embarrassing for him as the university is within his constituency.

Professor Richard Pring, Oxford's professor of educational studies, said he was

"absolutely dumbfounded" by the charge because he had explained his department's policy personally to Mr Patten. Although all the schools used to train Oxford students were from the state sector there was no bar on independent schools.

The university turned down an approach from Eton College two years ago because it considered the school too far away for students who had to travel there every day. Since then, he said, there had been no applications from independent schools to take Oxford students.

But Arthur Hearnden, general secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council, said later that Oxford was well known for refusing to co-operate with independent schools. Vivian Anthony, the secretary of the Headmasters' Conference, said: "Our rela-

tions with Oxford have always been totally appalling."

Mr Patten departed from his prepared text to raise the issue. He said: "If it is clear that individual independent schools have gone to institutions and sought a partnership in teacher training, and been consistently refused because they are independent, I do have the powers, which I would not hesitate to use after proper investigation, to withdraw approval from those courses."

He said later that one complaint had been made to him and he would warn the university concerned to "mend its ways" or lose approval for its teacher training courses. "Imagine the outrage if a higher education institution refused to take a school from the state sector," he said.

Mary Russell, secretary of the Universities Council on

the Education of Teachers, said most departments were happy to involve independent schools although some felt that since most students would teach in state schools it was better for them to be trained there.

Mr Patten is reorganising teacher training to give schools rather than universities the leading role. He announced yesterday that independent schools would be invited to form training consortiums next year as long as they followed the national curriculum.

Mr Patten told the headmasters that the old divisions between state and independent schools were rapidly breaking down. "The best of the self-governing schools will prove a match for even a well-run independent school which does not move with the times. And the competition comes

not only from state schools, but from the newly independent further education corporations where I am looking for spectacular growth in the next three years."

The largest teaching union clashed with Mr Patten yesterday over a pay claim of about 14 per cent (Ben Preston writes).

A submission by the National Union of Teachers to the independent pay review body called for an 8 per cent rise next year, plus an across-the-board payment of £1,000.

Mr Patten claimed the demand could cost up to 80,000 jobs. He said: "In the present economic climate and in a tight public expenditure round, any such claim would clearly be unrealistic." The union says teachers are undervalued and predicts an exodus from the profession when the recession ends.

BR denies west coast has lost £150m aid

The government was last night in the middle of another controversy over the future of British Rail as industry sources indicated that InterCity may not get £150 million for new trains on the Easton to Glasgow west coast main line (Tim Jones writes). Instead, the money is likely to go to Network SouthEast for 40 Networker trains to replace ageing stock on its London commuter services.

According to one source, the BR board favours the SouthEast option because of a dispute with GEC Alsthom over the price of the 14 new 225 trains for the west coast route. BR denied that a decision had been made but Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, said he had been told that the west coast line had lost John Prescott, shadow transport secretary, claimed the line could be closed north of Manchester once BR was privatised. He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that companies bidding for the more profitable east coast route would not want competition.

Arms trade defended

Ministers and officials did not "play fast and loose" with guidelines designed to restrict the flow of military equipment to Iraq, the Scott enquiry was told yesterday. The guidelines were modified after the 1988 ceasefire between Iraq and Iran, but the significance of the change had been "over-dramatised", the enquiry was told. Robert Young, who was head of the Foreign Office's Middle East department in 1987-91, insisted that ministers had not misled MPs and the public over the extent of arms exports.

Mirror to go into TV

The Mirror group, announcing pre-tax profits for the last six months up 100 per cent to £33.8 million, has disclosed plans to move into cable or satellite television. David Montgomery, MGN chief executive, said the group's late proprietor Robert Maxwell had finally been exorcised from its five papers. Share placing, page 23; Tempus, page 27

Sheehy data 'flawed'

The Police Federation has accused the Sheehy enquiry on police pay of using flawed research to decide whether new policemen were earning starting salaries comparable with the private sector. Professor Robert Elliott, an economics adviser to the federation, said the starting salary proposed by the enquiry was arbitrary and would put off recruits.

Train gunwoman held

A woman who commandeered a Portsmouth-to-Brighton commuter train after threatening the guard with an air pistol when he asked for her ticket was last night arrested under the Mental Health Act. The woman, aged 33, from Brighton, who also had two knives, gave herself up after talking to a negotiator for more than two hours.

Parkinson rejects claim

Lord Parkinson yesterday denied a claim by his former mistress Sara Keays that he argued for their handicapped daughter to be put into care so that he would not have to provide for her. He made a statement through his solicitor at a High Court hearing that followed comments made by Ms Keays in breach of a court order. She apologised to the court.

Broadmoor man caught

Police last night recaptured Dennis Grant, 31, who escaped from Broadmoor Hospital, Berkshire, while cleaning cars with another prisoner and two members of staff outside the walls. An enquiry is under way into how he got away. Grant was convicted in 1984 of burglary with intent to rape, assault and making threats to kill.

After the dino-show

The Jurassic Park roadshow might have passed by, but dinomania reached new heights yesterday when an anonymous bidder paid £3,000 for a plateful of fossilised dinosaur droppings at an auction held by Bonhams in their Knightsbridge, west London, salerooms. Ten saurpods eggs found in China fetched £46,000.

Divorce without court battle

Continued from page 1
members, also offers a service in which couples have sessions with a solicitor and mediator working together.

The Solicitors' Family Law Association endorses the use of mediation but it is concerned about advice being given by people who are not lawyers. Nigel Shepherd, the vice-chairman, said: "We accept that much work needs to be done in educating lawyers about other options that are available. And we are prepared to accept that there perhaps should be a change to the rules requiring lawyers to give such information to clients. But other agencies should at the same time have to give information about us."

Where legal advice was needed, he said, it should be given by trained people. "Clients should have the right to choose where they turn to for help at probably the most traumatic time in their lives."

At present, 160,000 couples divorce each year and the rate is rising. Ninety per cent of applications are undefended. The sole basis for divorce now is the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage and couples must cite at least one of five grounds to demonstrate that collapse. Three of the five grounds retain fault: adultery, unreasonable behaviour, and desertion for at least two years. Otherwise, if both parties consent to the divorce, the couple must live apart for at least two years, or for five if they do not.

Doctors say Heseltine must resist a big return

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

TORY hopes that Michael Heseltine would make a barnstorming comeback with a speech at the party conference in Blackpool next month are expected to be dashed.

The board of trade president, still recovering from his heart attack in June, is understood to have been advised by doctors that he should not subject himself so soon to the stress of preparing and delivering a big conference speech.

A decision has yet to be taken but, although Mr Heseltine is billed in the conference agenda to speak in the industry debate, Tory sources suggested last night that he was unlikely to do so.

The news is a blow to John Major and the Conservative leadership as they prepare for what was already certain to be a difficult week. It also raises a serious question over Mr Heseltine's long-term future in the government.

Some Tories have said privately that Mr Heseltine really needed to make a conference speech to put his career back on the road. His wife Anne and close family are known to have been worried, however, about the prospect of him returning to the fray too soon.

Mr Heseltine's fiery speeches have become a fixture of Tory conferences as one of the events guaranteed to raise the morale of activists. Tory MPs believed that the party needed him more than ever this year.

Officials said that Mr Heseltine would be missed. However, one said: "A footballer would not expect to come back from a broken leg and play his first match in a cup final. Michael puts everything into his speeches. Perhaps it would not be the wisest way to return."

He is still likely to return to his desk at the industry department at the end of this month, although his workload is expected to be light. It is thought likely he will attend the Blackpool conference, but for once in the unlikely role of an observer.

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RAF woman wins £22,000 for pregnancy dismissal

The defence ministry could face a bill for £100 million after a servicewoman sacked for becoming pregnant won compensation

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER RAF medical assistant won £22,000 compensation yesterday after being discharged from the service for becoming pregnant. The case could set a precedent for 4,500 women, presenting the Ministry of Defence with a bill for £100 million.

Jacqui Thornber's case was settled out of court and was the first to be resolved since a European court ruled last month that there should be no limit on compensation paid in sex discrimination hearings.

The solicitor who represents the armed forces pregnancy dismissal group, Norman Lamb, said compensation claims could total as much as £100 million.

Miss Thornber, of Leicester, who now has a seven-year-old son, had served in the RAF for four and a half years when she was discharged. She said she

ministry open to large claims from the thousands of servicewomen who had been discharged after becoming pregnant, a policy which was judged illegal under European law.

The settlement followed a hearing at a Croydon industrial tribunal which heard that after becoming pregnant while based at RAF Bruggen in Germany in 1985, Miss Thornber was faced with the choice of leaving the service or having an abortion.

Miss Thornber told the tribunal that pregnant women in the RAF were considered "as bad as homosexuals".

At the time, the ministry operated a policy of discharging pregnant servicewomen, in contravention of an European Community directive which came into force in 1978.

In 1990, the High Court ruled that the ministry was acting illegally and the policy was dropped. But the £11,000 limit on compensation claims remained until the European Court ruling on August 2. The court also allowed for the payment of interest on compensation retrospectively.

Mr Lamb said that since many of the outstanding cases went back several years, the ministry could face a large bill.

Miss Thornber, a single mother, told the tribunal she was on income support and studying for a degree in information and library studies.

Mr Lamb said he was delighted at the outcome. "It is a significant breakthrough," he said.

The defence ministry said it was impossible to say how much money would now be paid to servicewomen who had been sacked from their jobs for becoming pregnant. A spokeswoman said: "It really depends on the individual circumstances of each case. We will not necessarily settle out of court for all of them. If women want to take their cases to an industrial tribunal it is entirely up to them."

The spokeswoman added: "There are now a number of women in the armed services with babies and the number is growing all the time. All the bases have crèches and facilities for children. Servicewomen who become pregnant now get 14 weeks' maternity leave and can then return to work."



Thornber: first RAF offer was £3,000

had not attempted to re-enlist after the child was born because she did not think she was allowed to join the RAF again.

The ministry had originally offered her £3,000 to settle out of court. The 1908 women from all three services who have already accepted out-of-court settlements received less than £10,000 each.

Miss Thornber brought a test case against the defence ministry after the European Court of Justice removed an £11,000 limit on sex discrimination awards to public employees.

The judgment on August 2 involved the case of Helen Marshall, a dietitian who took her health authority employees to court after being forced to retire at the age of 60.

The lifting of the limit on compensation laid the defence

Teenager stages high-wire act to evade capture by police



A teenager hung from a telephone wire for 90 minutes after being chased by a store manager who suspected him of shoplifting. Police and fire officers watched helplessly as he dangled 20ft above the ground, after climbing onto the roof of shops at Downend, Bristol, armed with a brick. He resisted appeals to come down until the wire broke and he was taken away by police, who said the youth was uninjured

Stories of reunion upset Adie relatives

By A STAFF REPORTER

RELATIVES of the BBC television reporter Kate Adie are taking legal advice after being distressed yesterday by national newspaper coverage of how she rediscovered her natural family.

Ms Adie, 47, who was adopted at birth, found her real sister living in Nottingham, having spent months tracking down the family after the death of her adoptive mother, Maad Adie, in 1990.

Yesterday Geoffrey Bond, who is married to Ms Adie's natural sister Dianora, said this family was horrified that a private matter had found its way into the newspapers. "My wife is very distressed at the way this has come out," he said, adding that he was taking legal advice on the disclosures.

Ms Adie, who has been TV Reporter of the Year twice, is on assignment with British troops at Vitez in Bosnia. The BBC said it would not comment on a private family matter.

Ms Adie was adopted within weeks of her birth in September 1945. She was brought up as an only child by John Adie, a pharmacist, and his wife in Sunderland. According to the published accounts, her natural mother is alive, and she has another sister and a brother.



Adie discovered her natural family

Mother starts brawl at her son's wedding

By JOE JOSEPH

POLICE were called to a wedding after the groom's mother, distraught because her son was marrying a woman she reviled, burst into the church and called out to the vicar that the couple should not wed.

Standing at the altar, taking their vows, Jason Adams and Andrea Sims spun round to find Jason's uninvited mother, Ruth Baird-Parker, was in St Mary's Church in Arnold, Nottingham.

A brawl erupted and police, who had been keeping watch from behind bushes, had to intervene. Insp Owen Rumbold said police had been warned of possible trouble: "I've never experienced anything like this before."

It was when the Rev Arthur Clarke asked the congregation to speak up if there were reasons why the couple should not marry

Showjump star denies assaulting workmen

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SIMMERING dispute between Harvey Smith, the former international show-jumper, and the golf club next to his equestrian centre boiled over into a fist fight, a court was told yesterday.

Two greenkeepers required hospital treatment after the fight. One had a black eye and the other needed five stitches to a cut in his head. Smith, 54, later accused the two men of conspiring to have him convicted. One man, he said, "must have blacked his own eye and the other with a cut head had fallen over."

Yesterday, at Bradford Crown Court, Smith, of Bingley, West Yorkshire, denied two charges of causing actual bodily harm to Richard Haley, 22, and Nick Faram, 33, on February 9 this year.

Gerald Lumley, prosecuting, said that Smith had been involved in a long-running row with Baldon Moor golf club over damage allegedly caused by his horses to a section of moorland near the twelfth tee. Eventually, the two parties had agreed to the laying of a bridge path.

The two men had been working on the site when Smith arrived and an argument developed over their use of a tractor on the wet ground. Mr Lumley said it became heated. "Mr Smith lost his temper. He did not like being contradicted by Mr Haley and flew at him and hit him."

Mr Haley was pushed and struck his head on the tractor, causing a one-inch cut above his right eye. When Mr Faram intervened, "he was given a crack on the head which resulted in a black eye."

Mr Lumley said Smith told police that he had felt intimidated by the men. In a statement, Smith said: "Those men meant to have me. If I hadn't been Harvey Smith, you would never have heard of this." The trial continues today.

Invitation to Germans angers veterans of war-time sinking

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SURVIVORS from an aircraft carrier sunk by a German U-boat in 1942 yesterday condemned a decision to invite to a reunion two of the crew responsible for the attack.

Veterans from HMS Eagle and other ex-servicemen of the Malta campaign hold an annual get-together to remember those who died in the battles trying to prevent the island falling to the Germans.

This year's guest list includes Horst Zimmermann, a former radio operator, and Rudolf Herholt, who was a seaman. Both were on board the U73 when it sank the Eagle on August 11, 1942. The U-boat itself was sunk in 1943 and its survivors also have an annual reunion.

Harry Kempshall, 74, one of

15 Royal Marine band members on board HMS Eagle when the torpedo struck, said: "Nine of the band were killed in the attack. They were my friends and I feel it is disrespectful to their memory to invite the two Germans. We can forgive, but we can never forget."

Norman Hefford, the George Cross Island Association's secretary, said: "Some of the Eagle survivors are feeling a little blue that two of the German U-boat crew are coming to the reunion."

Roy Maber, a member of the association and organiser of the reunion, to be held at Yeovil, Somerset, said 50 years had passed and it was "time to forget". His attempts at reconciliation have met stiff opposition.

Mr Kempshall, of Yeovil, Somerset, said there were about 1,100 men on the carrier, which was shipping Spitfires to Malta. "I lost a lot of good friends," he said.

Tom Sprake, from Sturminster Newton in Dorset, said: "I think they should have asked the survivors first before inviting the U-boat crew. I'm not very happy about this."

Mr Maber said the U-boat crew had proved they were brave men for managing to get through the anti-submarine screen around the convoys taking supplies to Malta.

He said: "It is the first time we have invited the German crew to our annual get-together and as such it is something of a milestone. Half a century has passed since this happened and I hope to spark a new feeling of fraternity and friendship between old adversaries."

TODAY IN SECTION TWO



How Tina turned the tables

● Tina Turner is a rock music icon, as much for her courage in making a new life for herself after years of maltreatment by her husband, bandleader Ike Turner, as for the energy with which, at the age of 54, she is still touring her high-powered show and making hit records.

● What's Love Got To Do With It, the film biography derived from her own account of her life from picking cotton to selling out stadiums, may be a little too reverent for critic Geoff Brown's liking, but it has a fine acting from Angela Bassett and Laurence Fishburne as Tina and Ike, and a soundtrack that could set the deaf dancing.

● ALSO on the arts pages: Richard Morrison on how veteran conductor Wolfgang Sawallisch is reviving the musical fortunes of Philadelphia.

Best for business

● In today's business section: Why the CBI is urging private sector pay restraint; and why 25,000 Lloyd's names may have to find an extra £5 billion.

Best for sport

● In today's sports section: Who would sell his soul for Manchester? Simon Barnes meets the man behind the city's bid for Olympic glory.

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MAGAZINE

THE MAN WHO LOVES WOMEN

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES

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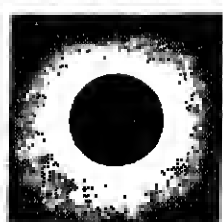
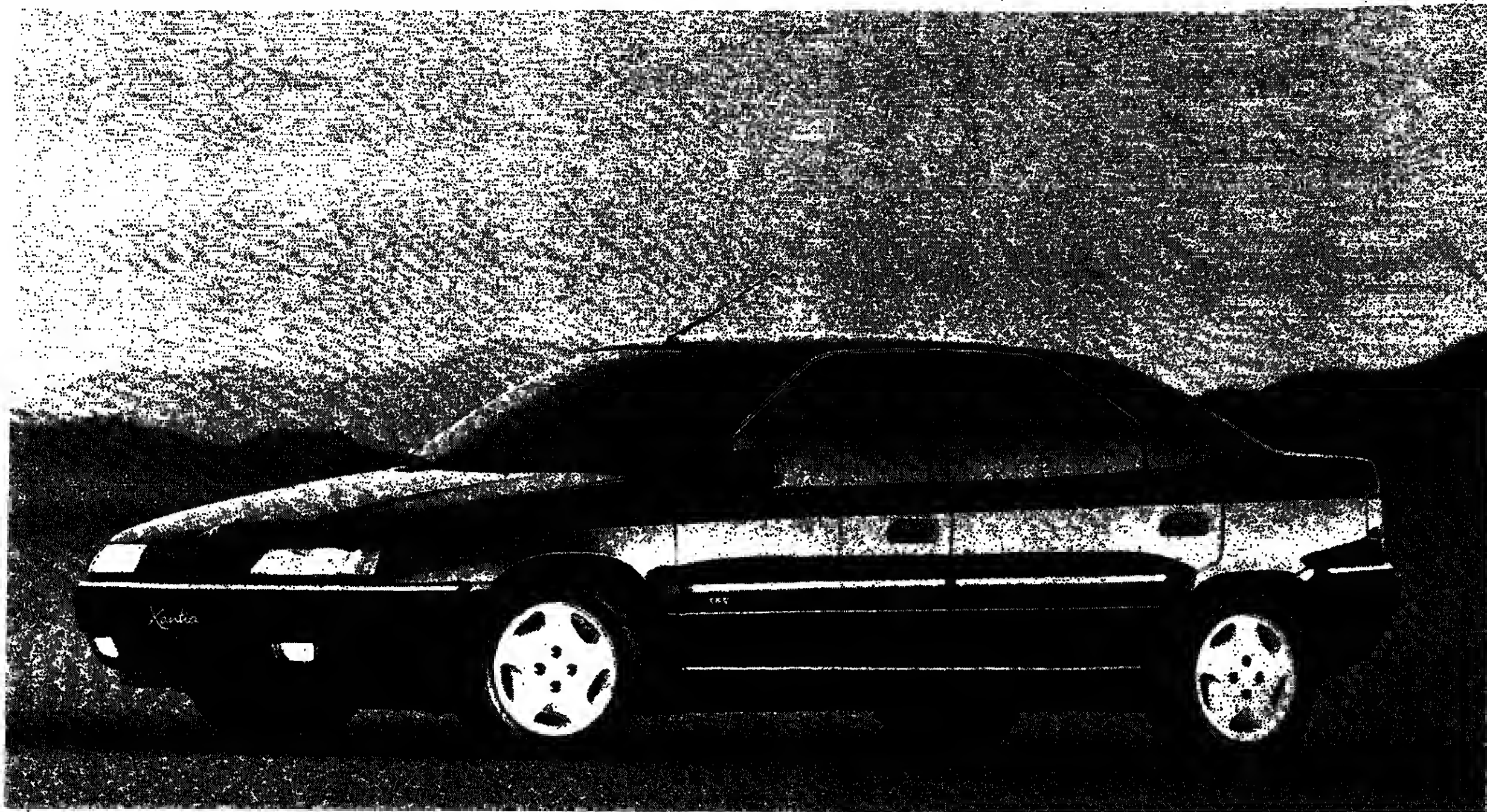
Allen Jones, the man who turned pin-ups into paintings and leather-clad women into furniture.

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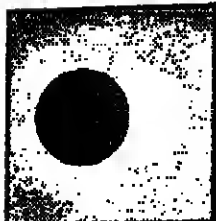
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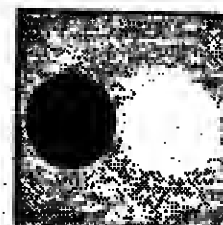
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Cancer teams warn of diagnosis risk in NHS reforms

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS with suspected cancers are at higher risk of being misdiagnosed because of changes brought in by the NHS market, specialists said yesterday.

The Royal College of Pathologists is reporting a sharp drop in the number of requests for second opinions since two centres were forced to charge for their services.

The centres in London and Birmingham have expertise in diagnosing cancer from tissue samples and the reluctance of doctors to check their diagnoses increases the likelihood of more mistakes like those in the Birmingham bone cancer scandal, consultants said.

In Birmingham, at least 28 patients with suspected bone cancer were misdiagnosed by a consultant pathologist. Some had limbs amputated or were treated with debilitating courses of chemotherapy that they did not need.

Dr Chris Fletcher, who runs the soft tissue tumour unit at

St Thomas' Hospital, London, diagnosing cancers of the nerves and muscles, said his referrals from the NHS were down by more than a third since he was forced to begin charging last April, after rising in earlier years. In June, of 117 referrals from Britain and abroad, he found 12 cases which were thought to be malignant but were in fact benign, and six cases which were thought to be benign but were in fact malignant.

"In 15 per cent of the cases there is potential for a major misdiagnosis. If my referrals are down by a third over the whole year, I will see 200 fewer cases and at least 30 of them may be getting the wrong diagnosis," he said.

"The government tried to blame the Birmingham scandal on a single aberrant pathologist. But it brought to light the importance of getting a second opinion in these difficult-to-diagnose cancers. Primary soft tissue cancers are

three to four times as common as primary bone tumours. If requests for second opinions fall, then there are going to be endless more Birmingham's."

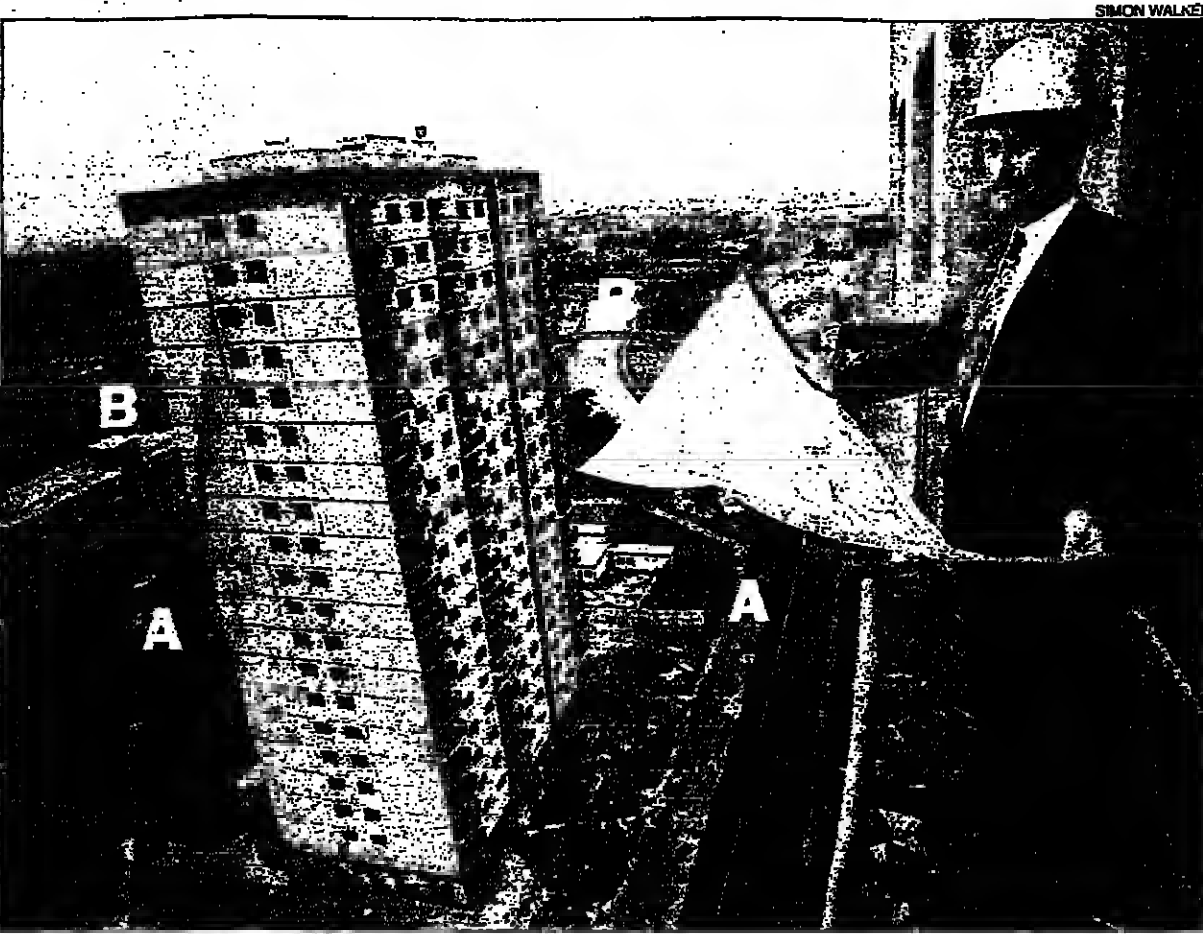
The Royal College of Pathologists said there had been a similar fall in referrals to the ophthalmic pathology unit at the Birmingham and Midland Eye hospital since charges were introduced. "There are many areas in pathology where diagnosis is very difficult," said a spokesman.

"Only a handful of people in the 'whole' of Europe are acknowledged to have first-rate expertise but if doctors have to pay there is a danger they will be reluctant to refer. We are concerned that standards will start slipping."

The health department said only clinical services qualified for central funding, not diagnostic services. The pathology units must charge hospitals for their services.

Body & Mind, page 15

MP demands postponement of London tower-block demolition



Charles Moran shows where one building will collapse, into area A. Nobody will be allowed into exclusion zone B

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE decision by a London council to go ahead with plans to knock down two tower blocks after a similar demolition in Glasgow killed a woman was attacked as "madness" yesterday. Tony Banks, MP for Newham, urged Hackney council to cancel the contract until the results of the Glasgow safety enquiry were published.

A woman died on Sunday after being hit by flying rubble when the 22-storey blocks were demolished. She was standing 140 yards away from them, 20 yards outside an exclusion zone set by the Health and Safety Executive.

Hackney council plans to use a similar exclusion zone on October 10 when it demolishes two 20-storey blocks. "Hackney should stop this madness now," Mr Banks said. "They should call a halt until we know what went wrong in Glasgow. If something goes wrong, Hackney will have only itself to blame and could face prosecutions for criminal negligence."

Charles Moran, managing director of Controlled Demolition Group, which will demolish the flats, said that there was no need to review the safety regulations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police siege killing was lawful

A man shot by police after he opened fire on them during a siege was lawfully killed, an inquest at Hornsey, north London, decided yesterday.

David Luckhurst, 46, a former publican of Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, was shot in the stomach after holding police at bay for four hours following a quarrel with his wife Ann.

Mrs Luckhurst said he had become "irrational, depressed and distressed" after rent increases forced him to sell the lease on his pub. He died in hospital from the gunshot wound and heart disease.

On the spot

Ambulance men at a safety demonstration in Cardiff had to stop and revive Barrie Jones, 48, who had a heart attack arrest when he saw children covered in imitation blood.

Plants seized

Police discovered two 12ft tall cannabis plants in a greenhouse when they raided a house at Wokingham, Berkshire. Two people were taken into custody.

Piracy raid

Pirate videos of Jurassic Park, sports clothing, watches and perfume were among counterfeit goods worth £500,000 seized in raids by Northumbria police.

Sneeze crash

Kevin Fairhair, 29, had a sneezing fit and drove his four-wheel truck backwards through a brick wall into an office at Lancaster, co. Durham.

Brief relief

Shopkeepers who spent a day cleaning graffiti from the town centre of Wokingham, Berkshire, returned the next day to find it covered with flyposters.

Flying cow

A naval helicopter lifted a cow weighing 800lb to safety when it slipped 130ft down cliffs at Chideock, Dorset.

Radiation damage women win legal aid

By RONALD FAUX

SEVENTEEN women cancer victims who claim to have been damaged by radiation during trials of a new treatment at Christie Hospital, Manchester, have been granted legal aid to help them sue South Manchester health authority. The authority ran the hospital before it became a trust.

Up to 500 women were treated for cervical cancer in trials of Selectron equipment during the 1980s. The support group Radiotherapy Action Group Exposure (Rage) said yesterday that four patients died and others needed surgery to repair the resulting damage to internal organs.

The trials ended five years ago but the campaigners claim the patients were not told they were taking part in eight years of clinical experiments using the new machine, or that they risked damage.

Although the Selectron is now commonly used at cancer treatment centres throughout Britain, at the beginning of the trials in Manchester doctors had still to discover the precise doses of radiation required. Patients are now warned in detail about possible side-effects caused by the radioactive isotope caesium.

Ann Alexander, a specialist in medical legal cases, said yesterday the action would centre on the amount of information given to patients. She claimed the women were not told that alternative treatment was available which offered an equal success record, but without such serious side-effects. Women were warned only that they might suffer from diarrhoea.

A verdict of misadventure was recorded last week at the inquest on Kath Dillon, 39, who was given Selectron treatment. Leonard Gorodkin, the Manchester central coroner, said the internal problems which led to her death had been caused by treatment which was not part of the Selectron trials.

Picasso exhibition highlights sculpture

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

A PICASSO exhibition, with over 200 works worth £300 million, will bring an estimated 250,000 people to the Tate next year.

Picasso: Sculptor and Painter is a radical interpretation of the artist which places sculpture at the centre of his achievement. It runs for three months

from February. The exhibition is expected to silence critics who last year bemoaned the Tate's failure to bring the Matisse exhibition to London.

The exhibition selector Dr John Gilling said that several of the works, from private collectors, had never been viewed publicly. "What is particularly exciting is the marvellous juxtaposition of well-known masterpieces and works that are barely known or have never been seen."

The exhibition has involved many trips abroad to persuade museums to lend important works. About 15 per cent of the exhibits will come from the Musée Picasso in Paris; works have also been promised by the Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris, New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Hermitage in St Petersburg.



Picasso: his sculpture is seen as central

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Racists hope for political breakthrough by exploiting despair of whites

Ultra rightwingers predict first win in council by-election

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE ultra-right British National Party is claiming that it is close to winning its first council seat.

The party, which broke away from the National Front in 1982, is contesting a Labour-held seat in the Millwall ward of the east London Tower Hamlets borough where people will vote today.

The improved prospects of the party, which espouses racist and anti-semitic policies, has alarmed local Labour councillors who predicted last week that the BNP might win up to 34 per cent of the vote.

Yve Amor, a sitting Labour councillor in Millwall, described the BNP's rise as "extremely worrying", but said she did not believe Derek Beackon, its candidate, would win.

"The people have realised what they are," Ms Amor said. "It isn't just the emotive rights for whites campaign they run. People have been able to see beyond that. They are a fascist organisation with fascist policies."

Last October, the BNP came a strong third in the Millwall by-election with 657 votes, behind the winning Labour candidate (1,275) and the Liberal Democrats (1,178). The Conservative Party polled 182 votes.

Richard Edmonds, the BNP's national activities organiser, said yesterday he was confident it would improve on its 20 per cent showing in the October by-election and would win the seat. "A lot of people are supporting us, there's no doubt about it," he said.

The council by-election comes amid an increase in racial violence in east London, which included a severe assault on Quaddus Ali, a 17-year-old Asian, by a gang of whites in nearby Stepney last week. His condition is stable, but he remains seriously ill.

BNP critics believe it is behind the upsurge in violence in the area — something Mr Edmonds and Mr Beackon, 47, a former bus driver, denied.

Critics also claimed the party was using the violence to attract support for its election campaign and win media attention.

As in the last by-election, the BNP has again been accused of exploiting the fears and resentment of white people in the ward, an area of high unemployment which has seen an influx of Asian immigrants in the past decade.

Mr Beackon said he believed almost all of Millwall's problems — housing, education and health care — could be blamed on the influx of Bengali migrants. "Most people would agree it is immigrants that are causing all the problems, but are afraid about being labelled racist," he said. "I am happy to describe



Quaddus Ali injured in a racist gang attack

myself as racist. It means I love my own people and I want to live among my own people."

He said he believed anyone who was not white, whether born in Britain or not, should be repatriated with what he called a "generous grant" to help them set up home elsewhere.

Mr Beackon described skin-heads — among the party's main supporters — as "nice people" and said he was not sure if the Holocaust took place. He admired Hitler, though he described himself as a nationalist, not a Nazi or a fascist.

Mr Edmonds compared the

party to Jean-Marie Le Pen's fascists in France in the early 1980s. "That's the parallel which inspires us," he said. "Twelve years ago, Le Pen had a nationwide organisation stretching throughout France. We have an organisation from one end of the United Kingdom to the other. His great breakthrough came when he started winning elections and look at him now."

Mr Edmonds, who runs the BNP's headquarters at Welling, Kent, said parties such as his needed a heartland and a community under threat. He believed Millwall fitted the bill.

Mr Beackon claimed the support for his brand of extremism was to be found in the council estates among the former dock workers of east London.

He refused to take part in a canvass of voters' opinions with The Times because he said people would not speak honestly in front of a journalist.

Mildred Gordon, the local Labour MP, has no doubt about those who support the BNP. She has called for people to fight "the Nazi poison that has been seeping into the East End and to make our streets and homes safe for every member of the community".

The list of candidates in the Millwall by-election includes Mr Beackon (BNP), Timothy Dickenson (Conservative), James Hunt (Labour) and Jennifer Mills (Liberal Democrats).



Derek Beackon, the BNP's candidate in Millwall, is confident of victory

'We are not prejudiced, but ...'

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE British National Party will need the votes of people like Sharon and Bill if it is to make a breakthrough in Millwall tonight.

They and their families have lived on the Isle of Dogs for generations, but despair at what they see as the takeover of their culture and lifestyle

by the influx of Asian, mainly Bengali, immigrants. They agreed to talk only if their identities were disguised, fearing what they say is the threat of retaliation by Asian gangs in Millwall.

Bill and his wife, who have two children, do not regard themselves as racist. They simply do not like the intrusion of an entirely foreign

culture. "I am not prejudiced," Bill said. "But, in the last five or six years, they have turned the Isle of Dogs upside down." His wife agrees: "It's disgusting round here. They are going round in gangs beating white people up."

They say the primary school is now 80 per cent Asian. They objected when their children were fed curry at lunchtime and when their son, aged five, came home counting to ten in Bengali.

"As soon as you even say anything, they say you are racist when all I want is

English food," said Sharon. In three weeks, the family is moving to another part of the East End, where Sharon said she has found a "beautiful" school that numbers only a handful of Asians among its pupils.

"She finds much to support in the BNP propaganda, including the forced repatriation of all non-whites. But she says she will continue to vote Liberal Democrat."

"I think the BNP are a bit violent," she said. "They've got the right idea, but they go about it in the wrong way."

Old curiosity bop revives unlikely age of Aquarius

I shall always be grateful to Hair, and especially to the shock-horror episode when the cast undressed, for they permanently changed my way of looking at things. It happened like this. I got up at the interval, asked a chum when the oude scene was coming, and was told I had missed it. It had, if you'll forgive me, passed in a flash. Next day I joined the spectacle-watching class, and have belonged to it ever since.

But are there better reasons for welcoming Michael Bogdanov's production at the Old Vic? When I reviewed the musical in 1968, I raved enthusiastically about "a sung exorcist in praise of the secular gods". Yet a revival five years later left me describing the show as nasty, brutish and long.

"a maudlin, mindless celebration of drivelling parades and self-pitying moros". If there was any consistency in this, it was that a cult phenomenon had dwindled into yesterday's news. Well, which view is the fairer now? Neither quite. The first half has become a period piece, a curio, and, for all Bogdanov's attempts to brush it up, as remote from 1993 as a 1930s Ruzhnik musical. As the hippies frolic around the stage in their patchwork jekins and exotic headbands, welcoming the age of Aquarius, we might almost be watching some counter-cultural Ivor Novello. The second half begins similarly, only to end up rubbing our noses, far more than in the original, in the mud and blood of Vietnam.

The script is nominally by James Rado and Gerome Ragni, but mostly seems to have been improvised by abstracted beatniks. Insofar as there is a plot, it involves Claude (an affable, stambling John Barrowman), who cannot bring himself to burn his draftcard and pays an even heavier price than I remember him doing in

1968. Then, he ended up shorn like a lamb and ready for shipment to the jungles. That was bad enough, for whether it comes as fluffy Hendrix, Jank Jagger, dainty Goldilocks or flowing Laughing Cavalier, hair matters hugely to these drop-outs. But now Claude emerges from a long, prophetic acid-trip to be mown down by Vietnam and left splattered centre-stage.

Apart from that, little happens. There is talk of "white men sending black men to kill yellow men to defend the land they stole from red men". There is a be-in in Central Park at which cards are actually burnt, a sprawling smoke-in, a love-in on an enormous bed, and a desultory quarrel which ends with a mass hug-in, and an abortive anti-war-in. The cast also spends much time miming enemies whose number is legion and whose name is sometimes the American Legion: oppressive parents, military killers, et al. Galt Macdermot's music is abrasive, rhythmic, but perhaps because we are more used to abrasive, rhythmic rock, less irresistible than in

1968. Moreover, Bogdanov has encouraged his cast to opt more for energy than for charm, and himself does much with throbbing lights, a rising platform, a spinning revolve, and other such technology.

His production reaches a self-consciously sensational climax with grotesque skeletons roaming the stage, a gunship dangling machine-guns from the flies, and what looks like the massacre of hippies. The show's admirers will doubtless feel he loses something: a vulnerability, a humanity, maybe an innocence. But that begs a question. Does Hair really have all that much to lose? With Bogdanov, without Bogdanov, it dates more than it enthralls.

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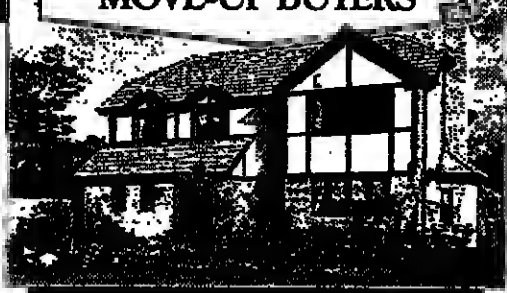
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Challenger blames his aggressive play for run of defeats

BY RAYMOND KEENE
AND DANIEL JOHNSON

NIGEL Short admits that his own over-aggression is to blame for Garry Kasparov's commanding lead after four games in *The Times* World Chess Championship.

"The problem is that I should have stayed in the trenches, but I have been going over the top too often," Short said yesterday in a candid interview.

Short, who lost for the third time to Kasparov on Tuesday night, said: "I put up my



THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



hands and say I played a bad game. There are no excuses. I had my chances."

Yet Short takes considerable heart from the style of play to date. "So far Kasparov has not won any games against me by attack. It has all been by counter-

attack. Everyone expected Kasparov to try to blow me off the board. As it happens, he is parrying my threats and moving in quietly.

"I have over-reacted by trying to annihilate him and being caught on the rebound. Perhaps there has been too

much media pressure of the 'Go on Nige, go in and get him' type. It would have been more prudent to keep my head down but it is not in my character to wimp out of sharp positions."

Short, who has always been noted for his ability to

avoid brooding after a defeat, issued a defiant message to his critics: "I didn't come all this way, three years of candidates' matches, in order to lie down and die," he said.

Kasparov dismissed as "premature" attempts to write off Short's chances and denied a report in one newspaper that he thinks Short is "not ready" for a world title match. Recalling his own first tilt at the world championship nine years ago, Kasparov said: "It's not unusual to lose several games at the start of a match against

the world champion, and I lost five before I won my first game. Of course, I survived. Karpov became too overconfident. I don't intend to make that mistake."

Kasparov denied that he had any personal goal of winning by a record score. "This is not an exhibition match. For me it's a big event, whatever other people say. My goal is to retain my title and to play exciting chess."

Yet as today's fifth game at the Savoy Theatre in London looms, the chess world is inevitably asking whether

Short can fight his way back into the match or if Kasparov can bring off a clean sweep. Precedents for both exist in the history of the world chess championship.

Steinitz, the first official world champion, began his title match against Zukertort in 1886 by losing 4-1, but fought back to win 10-5. During his 27-year reign, Lasker, the next world champion, won several matches by huge margins: against Steinitz 10-2 in 1896, against Marshall 8-0 in 1907, against Janowski 7-1 in 1909 and 8-0

in 1910, against Tarrasch 8-3 in 1908 and 5-0 in 1916. During the long Soviet hegemony, virtually the only player to administer such devastating defeats at the highest level was Bobby Fischer, who beat Taimanov 6-0, Larsen 6-0 and Petrosian 6½-2½, en route to his 1972 title match against Spassky. Comebacks have, however, occurred several times in title matches: notably Smyslov, who was 4½-1½ down after six games in his 1954 match against Botvinnik, but fought back to 12-12.

Short suffers as Kasparov takes the Poisoned Pawn

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short has been listening to "too much bad advice," claims Garry Kasparov.

"A world championship match is totally different from anything Nigel has experienced before," the champion said yesterday. "Nigel should have been cautious at the beginning, not super-aggressive," Kasparov said.

After four games Kasparov has a commanding lead, but this is not due to any lack of courage or chances on the part of Short. The main feature of the match has been the sparkling cast of Kasparov's thought processes. Usually, the champion has a long think in the late opening phase, mapping out a strategic design for the whole of the rest of the game. In contrast, Short's attacking efforts, which had been so deadly in the earlier phases of the qualifying cycle against Jon Speelman, Boris Gelfand, Anatoly Karpov and Jan Timman, have been rendered disjointed.

Short is making a supreme effort, but he is facing a chess genius the like of which has not been seen before. What accentuates Kasparov's achievement is that he has moved smoothly into the lead on Short's home turf. The players talked exclusively to *The Times* about Tuesday's game.

White: Nigel Short

Black: Garry Kasparov

1 Nf3 c5
2 d4 cxd4
3 Nxd4 Nf6
4 Nc3 a6
5 Bg5 e6
6 Bxf6

Kasparov accepts the challenge of entering the sharpest possible variation, the Poisoned Pawn system of the Sicilian Defence.

7 Qx2
8 Qx2
9 Nf3

A favourite of Boris Spassky. More common is the more immediately aggressive 9 Rb1.

10 Bxf6 gxf6
11 Bg2 Nf6
12 Qd2 Bb7
13 Kh1 h5
14 Nd1

Kasparov: "This was kind of a surprise. I only know of one game where this has been played before, Platonov-Bukhovich in the USSR 1963, where Black responded with 14... Qb4. Short's idea is to manoeuvre his knight round and try to trap my queen. 14 Nf1 was played in the 11th game of the Spassky-Fischer match in 1972."

15 Ne3 Qb4
16 c3

Kasparov: "Short sacrifices a second pawn, but this was not a surprise. In 1972 Ljubomir Kavalek was Bobby Fischer's assistant in his match against Spassky. Now he is working with Nigel Short. Perhaps this was all a secret weapon created 21 years ago."

17 Qe4
18 Bg3

Kasparov: "I would have played 17 Ne4 here. It is too close to the opening for me to give precise details, but I still think Black would have good defensive resources even after this move."

19 Qd2 Qe4
20 Nf3 Rf7
21 Nc3 Qd3

22 Qd3

23 Bx7

24 Bx7

25 Bx7

26 Bx7

27 Bx7

28 Bx7

29 Bx7

30 Bx7

31 Bx7

32 Bx7

33 Bx7

34 Bx7

35 Bx7

36 Bx7

37 Bx7

38 Bx7

39 Bx7

40 Bx7

41 Bx7

42 Bx7

43 Bx7

44 Bx7

45 Bx7

46 Bx7

47 Bx7

48 Bx7

49 Bx7

50 Bx7

51 Bx7

52 Bx7

53 Bx7

54 Bx7

55 Bx7

56 Bx7

57 Bx7

58 Bx7

59 Bx7

60 Bx7

61 Bx7

62 Bx7

63 Bx7

64 Bx7

65 Bx7

66 Bx7

67 Bx7

68 Bx7

69 Bx7

70 Bx7

71 Bx7

72 Bx7

73 Bx7

74 Bx7

75 Bx7

76 Bx7

77 Bx7

78 Bx7

79 Bx7

80 Bx7

Key moment: Short can force a draw with 20 Nc4.

20 Rf1
Kasparov: "It would be more logical to force a draw with 20... Nc4-Qe4 21 Nf6 Qe3 22 Nc4 with a perpetual attack against my queen. Short is taking a great deal of risk by playing for the win. He has no direct threats to justify his two pawns disadvantage."

Short: "I could have forced a draw here but it is not in my character to wimp out in a sharp position."

21 Nc4

Kasparov: "Short's main problem was hesitation. He spent half an hour on 21 Nc4, when he had no other option. I sensed his hesitation, so I decided not to defend but to move over to the counter-attack."

22 Rf4

Kasparov: "Once again, as in game two, I have to sacrifice my rook for Short's knight."

23 Bx4

Kasparov: "The position is about equal but it is easier for Black to play. Psychologically, having been on the attack, Short has to adjust his mind to different categories of assessment. Now he must defend."

24 Bx7

25 Bx7

26 Bx7

27 Bx7

28 Bx7

29 Bx7

30 Bx7

31 Bx7

32 Bx7

33 Bx7

34 Bx7

35 Bx7

36 Bx7

37 Bx7

38 Bx7

39 Bx7

40 Bx7

41 Bx7

42 Bx7

43 Bx7

44 Bx7

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79 Bx7

80 Bx7

81 Bx7

82 Bx7

83 Bx7

84 Bx7

85 Bx7

86 Bx7

87 Bx7

88 Bx7

89 Bx7

90 Bx7



Nigel Short slumps to a three-game deficit in the world championship

exd5 30 Qxd5 Bx5 31 Rf1+ Kf8 32 Qxc5 bxc5 33 Rf8 checkmate. However Black refutes this with 31... Qc7, leaving me with a decisive material advantage. If instead after 28 Rf1 Nd5 29 Bxd5 exd5 White plays 30 Rf1+ then 30... Kf8 31 Nd4 Rh6 when Black has a material advantage and the White king is still exposed."

32 Qxc5

33 Rf8

34 Rf8

35 Rf8

36 Rf8

37 Rf8

38 Rf8

39 Rf8

40 Rf8

41 Rf8

42 Rf8

43 Rf8

44 Rf8

45 Rf8

46 Rf8

47 Rf8

48 Rf8

49 Rf8

50 Rf8

51 Rf8

52 Rf8

53 Rf8

54 Rf8

55 Rf8

56 Rf8

57 Rf8

58 Rf8

59 Rf8

60 Rf8

61 Rf8

62 Rf8

63 Rf8

64 Rf8

65 Rf8

66 Rf8

67 Rf8

68 Rf8

69 Rf8

70 Rf8

71 Rf8

72 Rf8

73 Rf8

74 Rf8

75 Rf8

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82 Rf8

83 Rf8

84 Rf8

85 Rf8

86 Rf8

87 Rf8

88 Rf8

89 Rf8

90 Rf8

91 Rf8

92 Rf8

93 Rf8

94 Rf8

95 Rf8

96 Rf8

97 Rf8

98 Rf8

99 Rf8

100 Rf8

Kasparov: "It would have been easier to play 38... Qe4+ 39 Qx2 Qxg2 40 Rg2 Rf4 41 Nf5 Rf4 42 Rf1 Rf4 43 Kxg1 b6 44 f6g6 b6x5 when Black promotes his a-pawn to a queen."

39 Qe4

40 Rg2

Major calls in unionists over stalled Irish talks

■ Private meetings in Downing Street with Irish politicians will seek inspiration from the breakthrough in the Middle East

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major will appeal to the leaders of two of Northern Ireland's political parties to break the impasse in the talks process by returning to the negotiating table.

In private meetings at Downing Street over the next two days, the prime minister will warn John Hume, the SDLP leader, and Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist party, of the threat of further waves of violence unless a fresh initiative is launched this autumn.

Mr Major's intervention follows the failure of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, to persuade the unionist MPs to resume the talks process that was suspended last November.

As pressure for a fresh initiative increases, Mr Major is expected to draw on the Middle East peace accord by urging Mr Hume and Mr Paisley to put aside entrenched positions in search of a political breakthrough.

Mr Hume is expected to report to Mr Major on his



Paisley: wants power devolved to province

talks with Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin MP, and other nationalist figures about the prospects of the Provisional IRA renouncing violence. But the SDLP MP will also seek reassurances from the prime minister that no promises were made to Ulster Unionist MPs in July in exchange for their support in the crucial Maastricht and government confidence votes.

Tomorrow, Mr Paisley will discuss his document *Breaking the Logjam* with Mr Major. The unpublished document fleshes out the Democratic Unionists' ideas for devolving power from Westminster to the province, with measures to improve links between the province and the mainland.

Mr Paisley wants the Dublin government to relinquish its territorial claim to the province, in articles two and three of the Irish constitution, as a pre-condition to his party resuming talks.

There were fresh hints from Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, that the republic is ready to give up its territorial claim to Northern Ireland as part of an overall agreement and subject to a referendum. Mr Reynolds also made clear that the offer by President Clinton of a peace envoy to mediate in the troubles was still a possibility if talks were not restarted.

On a promotional visit to New York, the Irish prime minister described the US administration as "a friend to all sides" with the potential to assist a new political dialogue. British ministers, however, object strongly to the idea.



Michael Howard, the home secretary, left, welcomes to the Home Office yesterday the first lay people to be appointed inspectors of the constabulary, Peter Hobbs, former group personnel director of the pharmaceutical group Wellcome, centre, and Dr Anthony Williams, a senior management consultant

No 10 runs risk of battle fatigue

John Major is going to have to fight a permanent campaign until next year's local and European elections. That, in the view of one of his cabinet supporters, is the real predicament the prime minister now faces.

The process is partly circular. Tory MPs and the Westminster media are treating the local council elections next May and the Euro-elections in June virtually as a national referendum which Mr Major has to win, regardless of the fact that parties in power nearly always do badly in mid-term contests.

Consequently, Mr Major is having to campaign to rebuild his personal position. This imposes a short-term perspective just at a time when, still only 17 months after the last election, he should be concentrating on building up the government's record in office.

Everything tends to be judged in that light. That accounts for his series of tours to meet constituency leaders:

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

the third was yesterday with more to come. The Tory faithful certainly need to be revived. The story of the Conservative conference could be not splits on policy, apart perhaps from rail privatisation, but the fractious mood of Tory activists faced by election defeats and falling membership and donations. Mr Major is good at handling such small group meetings — and most local Tories want him to succeed and survive. But, as the *Conference Countdown* series in the *Times* has shown, more than the occasional pep talk or speech will be needed.

About the only certainty is that there will not be a replay of the events of November 1990. Then, Michael Heseltine was ready, willing and eager on the back benches. There is no comparable figure now. Kenneth Baker should

never be written-off, as his promotion of his memoirs has shown. But no one is sure where he stands. Norman Lamont is a political heavyweight with every intention of returning to high office. He remains an important player on the political stage. Yet, for the moment, his public reputation is still affected by his period as Chancellor.

Talk of a stalking-horse candidate is misleading, both linguistically and politically. A stalking-horse implies someone being used as a substitute to mask another's real intentions. That was never true even in 1989-90 when Sir Anthony Meyer's candidacy highlighted Margaret Thatcher's potential vulnerability. It required Mr Heseltine's direct intervention 11 months later to oust her.

Similarly, anyone standing against Mr Major this November cannot be a stalking-horse for a potential successor. The most a challenger could achieve would be

to highlight the extent of unhappiness with Mr Major among Tory MPs. Any candidate has formally to be backed by 34 MPs and, despite rumours, there is no real sign yet even of a semi-serious runner.

Mr Major is more vulnerable to a loss of confidence among his cabinet colleagues and Tory backbenchers. So far, his cabinet has remained loyal, as was shown in July's showdown over the Maastricht bill. But Tory backbenchers are a nervous lot and an event, a troublesome party conference, a bad by-election defeat or a self-inflicted crisis like the pit closures, could trigger a new loss of confidence. He is in a stronger position than some enemies believe, or hope. Above all, he is determined to see off his critics. But he will not be able to secure his position until at least next summer.

PETER RIDDELL

Euro-candidates walk a cautious line for Tories

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PHILIP Trevelan's selection as a Conservative candidate for next year's Euro-elections could not have been in more inauspicious circumstances.

Today is the first anniversary of his final interview on September 16, 1992 — Black Wednesday. The place was Norman Lamont's constituency office in Kingston upon Thames. Predictably, he was questioned about his views on the exchange-rate mechanism and economic and monetary union before being picked to fight London South West, where Labour has a majority of 518.

"When I went in for the final selection we were in the ERM," he recalled. "When I came out, there was Norman Lamont on television saying we were out."

As next June's Euro-elections will be interpreted as the voters' judgement on John Major, the prime minister needs all of his budding MEPs to adopt Mr Trevelan's pragmatic attitude to the Commission. Hardened Tory sceptics, however, are threatening to stand against their party's official candidates if they sound too enthusiastic.

Like most of the 32 Conservative MEPs in the present parliament, those standing in Tory-held or marginal seats will tend to be professional Europeans who have links with EC institutions. But, as yet, they are markedly more sceptical about closer union. Cynics will predict they will swiftly "go native" when surrounded by hordes of arch-federalists in Strasbourg.

Once elected, they will join the very non-Tory sounding European People's Party of Christian Democrats in a European Parliament that supports a federal Europe, a single currency and an autonomous central bank. The Tory leadership defends the link, pointing out that its MEPs are only "allied members".

Mr Trevelan, professor of computing at University College London, and a former adviser to the EC on industrial policy, is fairly typical of the new breed. "We need to go

back to the European Economic Community," he said. "I am pro-European but strongly anti-federalist. I believe my line is supported by most of the population."

Although he believed that, politically, the prime minister had to press ahead with ratification of the Maastricht treaty, Mr Trevelan disliked it. "It is past its sell-by date. Everybody agreed it was a pretty poor treaty."

Brendan Donnelly, the Tory candidate in West Sussex, carefully avoids using the word "federalism". His EC credentials are impeccable: he is political adviser to Sir Christopher Prout, leader of the Tory MEPs, and previously worked for the MEP Lord Plumb and Lord Cockfield when he was Britain's EC commissioner, as well as in

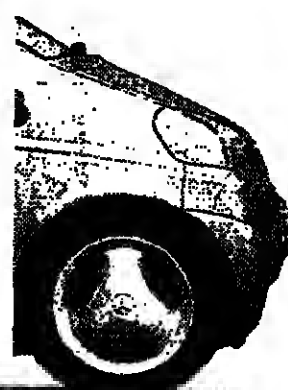
CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN



the Foreign Office. Instead of pursuing the more enthusiastic line of some of his former bosses, he favours a free-trading, de-centralised Europe. Although he backs legislation to pave the way for EC institutions to introduce common standards, he fears giving the Commission discretionary powers.

John Corrie, standing in Hereford and Worcester, is banking on enlargement of the Community to snuff out the federalists' ambitions. He said that the EC was likely to turn into a more loosely knit band of countries in a large trading bloc, rather than a political federal Europe. Mr Corrie, an MP and a nominated member of the European Parliament in 1975-9, said Maastricht was a high-water mark: the tide had now turned.

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Canberra seeks Clinton's support

Keating pins hopes on Asian trade pact

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN SYDNEY

PAUL Keating, the Australian prime minister, faces a daunting task in Washington this week, when he will try to persuade President Clinton that he is serious about anchoring Australia in Asia with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) as the centrepiece of his trade policy.

To that end he wants to convince Mr Clinton that the group of 15 countries is fit for a dramatic upgrading and treatment as a bigger version of the Group of Seven industrial nations. Mr Keating's commitment to Apec as the dominant economic club of the future is a cornerstone of his leadership and he intends to steer his country towards full economic, social and cultural integration with Asia.

Apec badly needs to improve its image first, however. Founded in 1989 to promote free trade among its member nations, Apec has been plodding along since its first Canberra meeting as a less

than fiery consultative gathering that discusses issues such as the harmonisation of standards and energy technology. Even many Apec members are sceptical about its potential for achievement given the diversity of a group that includes China, Taiwan, Japan, the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, South Korea, New Zealand, and Asian members Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei.

Undaunted, the Australian prime minister sees Apec as the best chance for his country to develop its economy within a framework that embraces the fastest-expanding economic region in the world. He believes he has already won backing for his proposal from Mr Clinton to throw Washington's weight behind a more dynamic Apec would boost Mr Keating's flagging popularity at home.

Only twenty years ago Aus-

tralia slumbered as an outpost of the empire under a racist "white Australia" immigration policy. From 2003 Australian officers in the military will have to speak at least one Asian language fluently to be eligible for promotion beyond the rank of major. Japanese is now the most commonly studied second language at tertiary level in Australia.

Asia now accounts for 60 per cent of Australian external trade. Australian engineers are building the bridge across the Mekong river between Thailand and Laos and Australian beef fills Japanese "Big Macs".

"Australia's destiny lies in Asia" is a much touted slogan these days, and its pragmatic popular appeal has persuaded Mr Keating to link the Asian issue to creating a republic by 2000. He believes that the fast-growing economies in Asia will not take Australia seriously until it becomes "independent" from Britain.



A Japanese girl, on her father's shoulders, cheering a procession of omikoshi, portable Shinto shrines, during a festival in Tokyo's Shibuya district yesterday

Running dogs aid success of Peking women athletes

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY, EAST ASIA EDITOR, IN HONG KONG

MA JUNREN, coach of the astounding Chinese women athletes who have recently been breaking world records, is a keen animal watcher.

"I started research on running in 1970," Mr Ma told *China Daily* in Peking earlier this week. "It's from deer and ostriches that I found the key to success in distance running." He also takes the 18 women distance runners he trains, known as "Ma's army" in China, to watch running horses, donkeys and dogs.

Together with the endless marathons the women run, and the caterpillar fungi elixir they drink, the regime appears to work. And the Chinese women have not suddenly burst on to the running scene. They began winning Liaoning provincial records in the early 1980s. Four of them won gold medals at the last World Junior Championships in Seoul, another won a bronze at the Barcelona Olympics, and three of them won gold in the 1500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres at Stuttgart, where Mr Ma claims they would have

set world records had they not been subjected to bumping. Mr Ma's methods include discovering the girls very young. They are sequestered when they are five or six and subjected to long, rigorous and admittedly painful training. The Liaoning girls are willing to run hard at high altitudes in Qinghai province, in the northwest, which was once a part of Tibet and is also the site of China's gallop.

What they do there amazes other trainers. "All my runners are from rural families," says Mr Ma. "Otherwise, how could they bear to run a marathon a day at 2,236 metres (7,335ft)? Who else in the world does this?"

He says his athletes "peak three times" after high-altitude training: after three days, again after two weeks, and then between 21 and 24 days.

Berlin: Opponents of Berlin's bid for the 2000 Olympic Games set off four explosions before dawn yesterday in front of buildings belonging to the bid's sponsors, police said. (Reuters)

China told to respect rule of law

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

CHRIS Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, sent a message to Peking yesterday effectively telling the colony in 1997 because China needs it too badly.

His warning may have been a curtain-raiser for October 6, when the governor will address Hong Kong's 60-member Legislative Council, which Peking derides as a colonial relic. Mr Patten may have to explain why the negotiations with China over 1995 elections for the council in Peking have failed.

Mr Patten yesterday began his speech to an international meeting on pensions by calling China's market-driven economic reforms "one of the most important revolutions of this century". He described how Hong Kong's achievements in international trade, production, fiscal responsibility, health and education made great contributions to China's prosperity. The Hong Kong miracle, Mr Patten said, rested primarily on an independent judiciary, a fairly elected legislature and a "watchful and fearless media".

Pakistani debtors face ballot ban

FROM ZAHED HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

GHULAM Mustafa Jatoi, the former Pakistani prime minister, his sons — Murtaza, a former federal minister, and Masroor, a former provincial minister — and about 30 other former ministers and legislators have been barred from participating in the October 6 parliamentary election for defaulting on repayment of bank loans.

A law passed by Moen Qureshi, the interim prime minister, bans any person with long-unpaid debts from standing in the elections. The law is part of the political and economic reforms aimed at stemming economic crisis and eliminating corruption.



Jatoi failed to pay back bank loans

As you can see, someone at Canon has been doing a bit of lateral thinking.

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software. Not bad for something smaller than a briefcase and yet producing output at 360 dpi which you'd think came off a laser.

The BJ-230's in-built paper feeder takes up to 50 sheets of A3 or up to 100 sheets of A4. It also takes envelopes and overhead transparency film.

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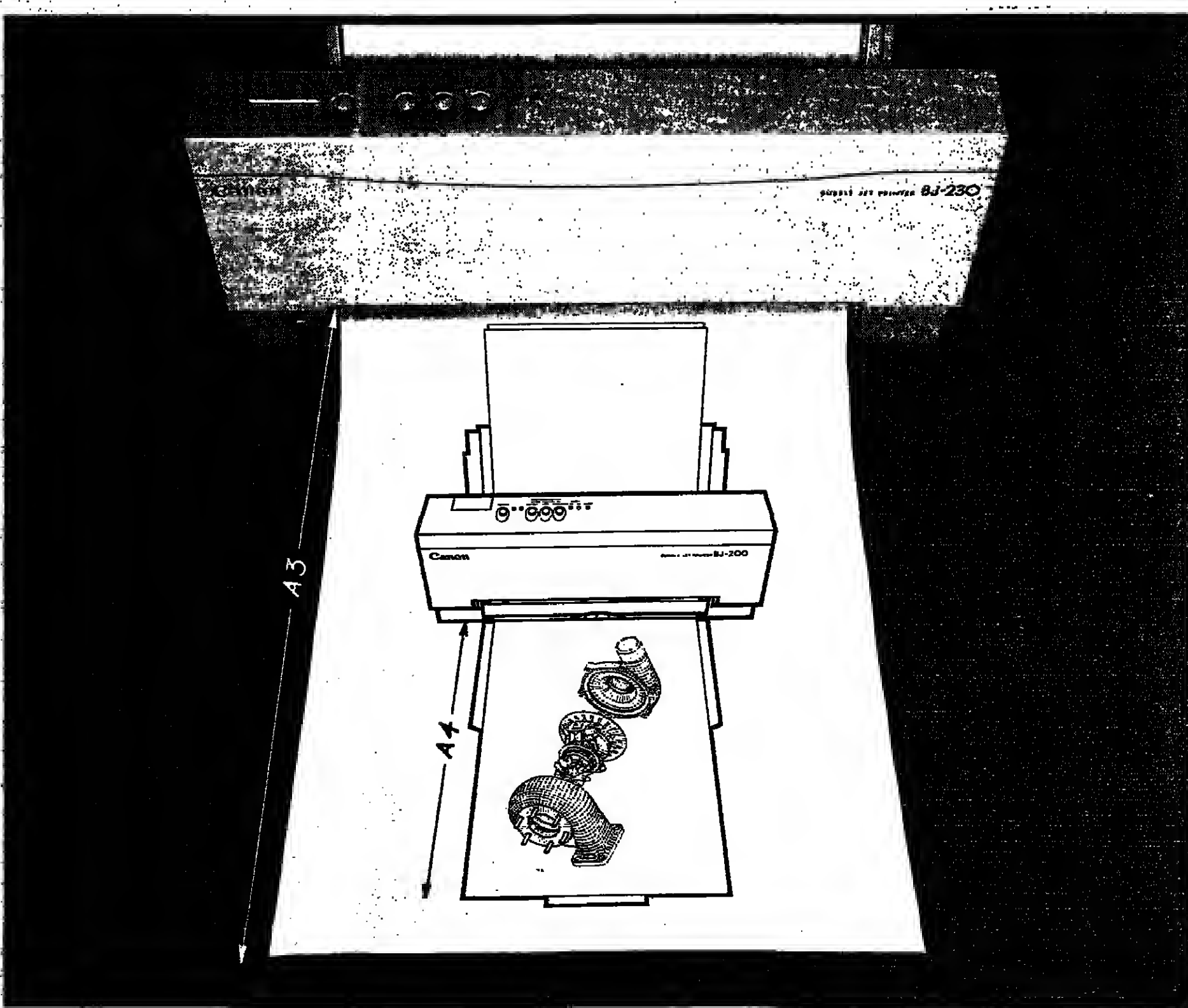
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Clinton poll rating boosted by foreign policy triumphs

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton, enjoying the best week of his presidency, was further heartened yesterday by a poll showing that he has now regained the approval of one in two Americans.

The *Wall Street Journal* survey gave him 50 per cent support, his highest rating since April, and he has had two public relations coups since it was conducted. On Monday, Mr Clinton hosted the Israeli-Palestinian peace ceremony and confidently nudged Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, towards their first handshake.

On Tuesday, he lured three former presidents, two of them Republicans, on to a White House stage with him to launch his campaign for the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta).

■ The president appears to have found his feet, but not before time. He will need to exert all the authority he can muster to see through his domestic programme

White House aides are convinced that the Clinton presidency has finally found its feet. Since David Gergen arrived in June to take charge of presentation there have been no more of the gaffes that made Mr Clinton the most derided new president of modern times. Aides say he has regained his self-confidence. He is for the first time controlling the political agenda.



Gergen: no gaffes since he went to White House

The Israeli-PLO accord was a huge bonus, but it also revives America's pivotal role in Middle East peacemaking at the very moment that Mr Clinton wanted to focus on his ambitious domestic agenda.

The accord offers an unprecedented opportunity to achieve a comprehensive Middle East peace. Mr Clinton must not be seen as the president who blew it.

His renaissance has come just in time. Mr Clinton faces an uphill battle to win congressional approval of Nafta. Richard Gephardt, the House of Representatives' Democratic leader, is expected to join the opposition ranks.

The Republican health care plan, like Mr Clinton's, calls for universal coverage and embraces the idea of regional health care "alliances" — co-operatives that would band together to purchase the best insurance at the lowest rate.

For health care, as for Nafta, and plans to reform the bloated federal bureaucracy, Mr Clinton will need bipartisan support, which was why Tuesday's appearance at the three former presidents at the White House was so significant.

Marilyn's dress causes a new flutter

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THIEVES in New York have stolen the dress that fluttered up over Marilyn Monroe's thighs when she stood over a pavement air-vent in the film *The Seven Year Itch*.

The white halter-necked gown was among the booty that burglars removed from a storage room in Manhattan belonging to Anna Strasberg, widow of the renowned acting coach Lee Strasberg who helped teach Monroe. Also taken was the skin-tight sequined dress Monroe wore when she sang a breathless "Happy Birthday" to President Kennedy at Madison Square Garden in 1962.

When she killed herself in 1962, Monroe left all her belongings to Mr Strasberg, and Mrs Strasberg is now the administrator of the estate. The theft was discovered when one of Mrs Strasberg's employees went to the 16th by 14th storage room in lower Manhattan to check on the collection of Monroe's personal effects. The employee found the contents of the room in a shambles.

Private investigators were trying yesterday to establish what had been stolen, using a photographic inventory. Their initial estimate put the losses at £6.5 million.



Marilyn Monroe in the now stolen white dress from *The Seven Year Itch*. Memorabilia taken from the Manhattan storeroom were valued at £6.5 million

US elite raiders bungle again

FROM SAM RILEY
IN MOGADISHU

ELITE American Rangers have again caused their country deep embarrassment, and cost the United Nations tens of thousands of dollars in compensation, when they bungled another attempt to capture General Muhammad Farrah Aidid.

Last month the Rangers absconded from helicopters into a UN development programme building and arrested three UN employees, believing General Aidid was holed up in the building.

This time they raided the one place in Mogadishu where General Aidid would never hide — the home of the police chief in the heartland of his arch-enemy in the north of the divided capital.

Worse still, they mistook the policeman, General Ahmed Jilow, for General Aidid, having blown down his front door and swung in through the windows on thick ropes suspended from helicopters.

An eye-witness description of what followed sounds like a violent episode of the Keystone Cops.

Are you General Aidid," yelled a Ranger, in goggles and black flak jacket. "No," said General Jilow, who was then struck with a rifle butt. "Yes," he then said and was arrested along with 30 of his neighbours. Five hours later the policeman and his friends, mostly senior officials of General Aidid's enemies in the Abgal clan, were released.

Major David Stockwell, the American spokesman for the UN armed forces in Somalia, refused to comment on the operation which he said was "classified". But a senior UN source said that the mission was a mistake. "Not catching Aidid has become routine," he said.

The classification of the operation as secret appeared to be a move to cover up the embarrassment rather than for security. But the Americans have offered to compensate for the damage caused.

Yesterday two Italian soldiers were reported killed in an attack on the UN port in Mogadishu. Elsewhere 11 people were injured, including six civilians, when four mortar rounds landed inside the UN's headquarters.

Pakistani troops attempting to take a checkpoint over from departing Italian troops were forced back by gunmen. The position, Checkpoint Pasta, close to where seven Nigerians were killed earlier this month attempting the same hand-over, was abandoned yesterday.



Aidid: not catching him has become routine

Boy takes Jackson to court

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE boy who accuses Michael Jackson of sexually molesting him has brought a civil lawsuit which is expected to seek millions of dollars in damages and go to a jury trial.

The suit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by a lawyer for the alleged victim, 13, asks for unspecified damages on each of seven counts against the pop singer. The star, who has denied the allegations, could face a bill for several million dollars, should the case go against him.

Yesterday, the boy's lawyer, asked the court for trial by jury and said he expects the case to last a month. A Jackson spokesman dismissed the lawsuit as legal extortion.

In Moscow, preparations went ahead for a Jackson concert last night. Driving rain and thousands of unsold tickets shadowed the performance to promote his album *Dangerous* and there was no immediate word on his personal reaction to the lawsuit.

Jackson, also the subject of a criminal investigation, was accused in the lawsuit of sexual battery, battery, seduction, wilful misconduct and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Anthony Pellicano, Jackson's security consultant, said: "This lawsuit is expected. This is now a legal way to try and get the money they failed in getting the illegal way."

Los Angeles police said their enquiry has not turned up enough evidence for a criminal prosecution.

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Rabin warns Syria on aiding gunmen as militants plan sabotage of deal

America shores up peace with hi-tech weapons for Israel

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON
AND BEN LINFIELD
IN JERUSALEM

THE Clinton administration, moving swiftly to bolster Monday's fragile Israeli-PLO peace accord, is considering the sale of sophisticated new weaponry to Israel to underscore its undiminished commitment to the security of its ally.

In Jerusalem Mr. Rabin, back from signing the pact in Washington with Yasser Arafat, sent a tough signal to Syria last night that Israel will not undertake new concessions in deadlocked peace negotiations.

President Clinton telephoned a succession of world leaders, including John Major, the prime minister, yesterday to urge them to give the accord all the political and financial support at their disposal. Mr. Clinton said Washington may convene an international conference of European, Asian and Arab states who might contribute to the reconstruction of the occupied territories and the costs of establishing Palestinian self-rule.

State Department and National Security Council officials were meeting yesterday to try

President Clinton is determined to make Israelis feel secure. By doing so, he risks intensifying hostility to the accord among those Arab nations wanting it to collapse

to decide the scope and timing of such a conference. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, has sent cables to American ambassadors instructing them to lobby their host governments.

White House officials confirmed that a new sale of US fighter jets to Israel is under discussion, but the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Mr. Clinton privately promised Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, on Monday that America would also share some advanced military technology that it had previously withheld from Israel. Officials refused to discuss what this might entail, though it could well be in the field of missile defences.

"We may wind up doing more in terms of shared technology," Mr. Clinton told an Israeli television interviewer on Monday night. "We want to do some more joint strategic thinking just to recognise the fact that military technology itself has changed the dimensions of what Israel

has to do to protect its security." Mr. Clinton has gone out of his way since Monday to reassure the Israeli people of America's continuing commitment to their country. He believes that they will only support the PLO accord—and a future peace treaty with Syria involving the return of the Golan Heights—if they feel totally safe.

"I have no intention of doing anything on my own which would in any way raise the question in the mind of any citizen of Israel that the US is weakening its support for the security of Israel," he said.

"The only way we can make this work is if every day more and more and more Israelis believe they will be more secure if there is a just peace."

In another interview on Arabic television, Mr. Clinton appeared to be preparing Arab public opinion for possible new arms sales to Israel. "All the progress yet to be made depends upon the conviction of the people of Israel that they are secure," he said.



A boy watches an Orthodox Jew pray at Jerusalem's Wailing Wall yesterday on the eve of the Jewish new year

"I don't think anyone in the Arab world should want me to do anything that makes the Israelis feel less secure."

Mr. Rabin, in his sharpest remarks since the "Gaza-Jericho first" breakthrough with the Palestinians, blasted Syria for preventing Lebanon from disarming pro-Iranian Hezbollah guerrillas and for assisting rejectionist groups seeking to torpedo the Israeli-PLO agreement. "Syria provides cover and aid to ten opposition groups. There are (located) the commands of those who also are continuing attacks, also opposed to the (peace) process, also completely opposed to the negotiations," he told Israel radio.

"It is as if they extend one hand to you in peace while opening fire at you with the other," Mr. Rabin said during remarks broadcast after his return from a surprise stop-

over in Morocco. At Ben-Gurion airport, near Tel Aviv, the prime minister and Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, were greeted by a band playing peace songs, but a headline Likud party legislators boycotted the arrival ceremony to protest against their Monday handshakes with Mr. Arafat, whom Likud still considers the head of a terrorist organisation. Mr. Rabin said he hoped the agreement with

the PLO, which was accompanied by mutual recognition, would lead to the forging of relations with Arab states that have traditionally shunned Israel. "We are on the eve of the (Jewish) new year. I think there is a great chance that the coming year will be a year of turning in the direction of peace," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

Leading article, page 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air crash inquest launched

Warsaw: Polish and German experts are investigating the cause of the Lufthansa Airbus A320 crash at Warsaw airport on Tuesday in which two people, including the co-pilot, were killed (Adam LeBor writes). Fifty-five passengers are in hospital, but none is seriously hurt.

Turks killed

Istanbul: Turkish security forces have reported the loss of 21 men in three separate clashes in the intensifying conflict with Kurdish separatists but destroyed a base sheltering about 600 guerrillas.

City jammed

Johannesburg: Hundreds of black and coloured minibus drivers brought the centre of Cape Town to a halt, blocking crossroads and causing traffic jams in a protest against rising petrol prices.

Refugees saved

Bonn: Ten asylum seekers were rescued by the fire brigade and a night watchman was injured when a blaze of unknown origin swept through a refugee centre in Hannover. (Reuter)

Fugitive relents

New York: After 23 years on the run, Katherine Ann Power, a radical of the Vietnam war era wanted for the murder of a Boston policeman during a bank robbery, has given herself up.

Palestinian hardliners look to Iraq and Libya for help

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

HARDLINE Palestinian leaders opposed to the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation were attending private meetings yesterday with leaders of Libya and Iraq, both hostile to the accord.

There was widespread diplomatic speculation that two of the hardliners, Georges Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who went to Tripoli and met Muammar Gaddafi, may have been privately seeking Libyan funds and weaponry to back a campaign to sabotage the deal after being snubbed by Syria, their home base. Damascus has refused to come out against the accord.

Yasser Arafat returned yesterday to a hero's welcome in Tunis, where he was greeted with a full turnout of the diplomatic corps including

for the first time, Thomas McCarthy, the American ambassador. Palestinian schoolgirls chanted "elegans of loyalty to the self-styled 'president of Palestine'".

Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the PLO's political department and the most senior PLO opponent of the accord, held

talks on Tuesday in Baghdad with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, and Mohamed Saad al-Sahhaf, the foreign minister. No details of his talks were available, but as the Iraqi regime has repeatedly condemned the peace deal, it was assumed that he was trying to muster patronage for those inside the PLO who are against it.

The visits were signs of the continuing deep splits inside the Palestinian movement and the task facing Mr. Arafat to maintain support.

Colonel Gaddafi has already dismissed the new limited autonomy plan as a "farce". After a previous visit to Tripoli a few days ago, Mr. Hawatmeh said he was looking at ways of getting Palestinian organisations to elect a new parliament, which in turn would select a new executive committee. Five out of 18 members of the present committee resigned over the deal.

Kaddoumi: seeking more PLO backing

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Farm protesters play highway hide-and-seek with police

FROM CHARLES BREMMER
IN PARIS

MILITANT French farmers disrupted traffic on highways yesterday but failed in an attempt to "blockade" road and railway links to Paris. Their action increased pressure on Edouard Balladur to defend their interests even if it means blocking a new Gatt agreement on world trade.

From the early hours, 60 groups of farmers conducted what they called a "Robin Hood" operation, briefly halting traffic on roads round the capital and dispersing when police arrived. They adopted a hit-and-run strategy, carried out from vans and cars rather than the traditional tractors and muck-spillers, to avoid the sepiet confrontation with riot police that led to the failure of their blockade attempt last year.

The interior ministry, which deployed mobile riot police to keep up with the farmers, pronounced their operation a failure by lunchtime, although Philippe Arnaud, deputy leader of the Rural Co-ordination, said his men would continue to "harass" drivers for the next three days. The government, which says it supports the farmers' demands, ordered hundreds of police to seal off M Balladur's offices and key ministries on the Left Bank.

In keeping with the sympathy which France harbours for its farmers, many frustrated drivers vented their anger at police rather than the protesters, whose action was aimed at keeping pressure on the government to resist its allies' attempts to persuade it to

■ Farmers may have halted traffic, but most drivers shared their hatred of the Blair House deal. The agriculture minister says an EC trade crisis is near

accept the so-called Blair House agreement with the United States. At the Porte de Montreuil on the capital's ring road, which was briefly paralysed by burning straw bales, drivers stopped to collect free apples from growers. Banners conveyed the message which

FRANCE

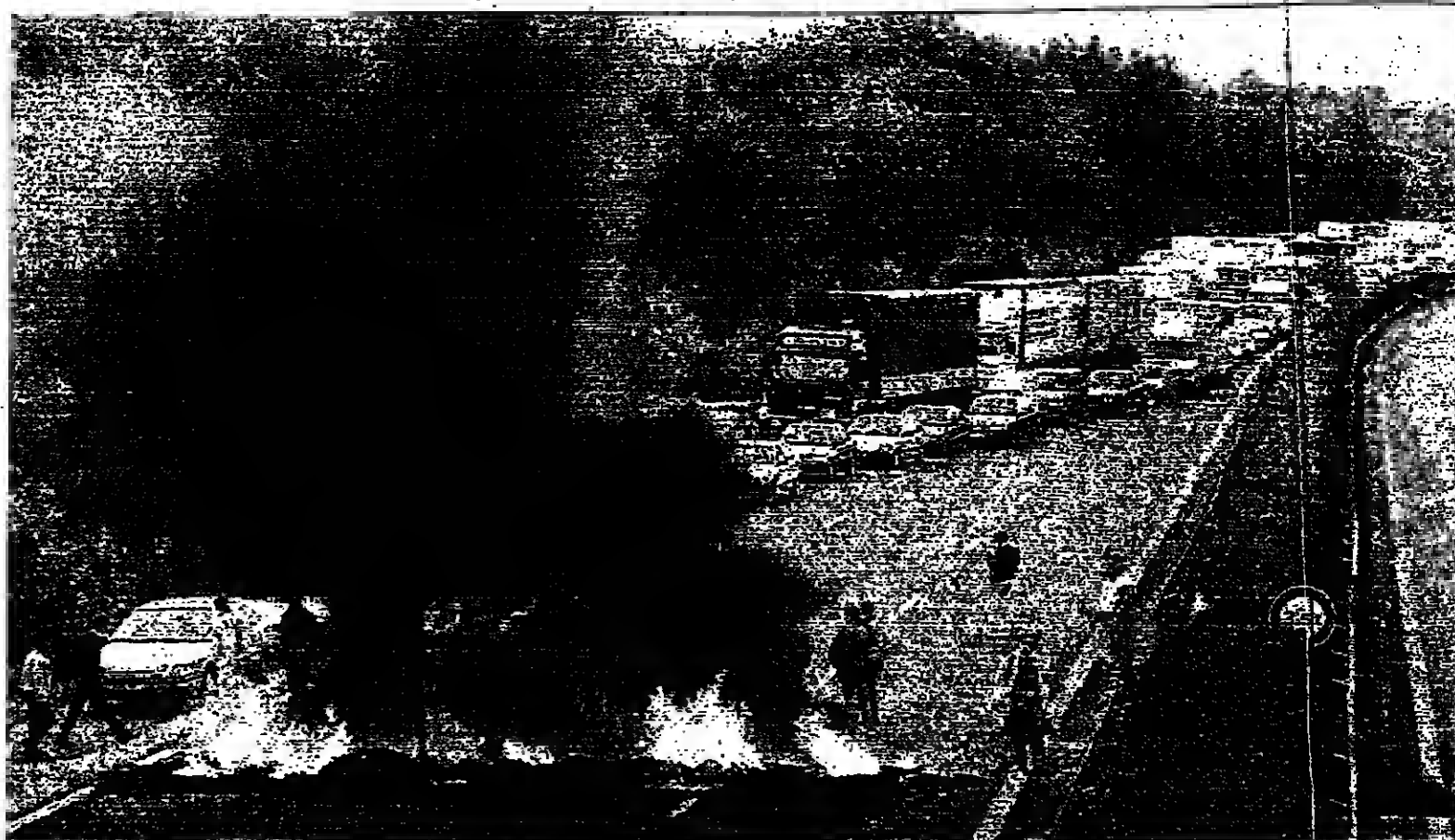
is unquestioned in public by any politician or by the mainstream media commentators. "GATT - USA - Death to France," one said. That interpretation is shared in a country which believes its very identity is threatened by the Gatt, an acronym now imbued with sinister overtones. France, the media are report-



Balladur sympathetic to growing rural lobby

ing, is the only country courageous enough to stand up against what is being depicted as an American plot to dominate world trade and strangle European agriculture. The latest bogeyman is Peter Sutherland, the Irish director-general, who is pressing for a rapid overall agreement. He was caricatured in *France Soir* last week as "bad-tempered, inflexible, intolerant and arrogant". A few commentators have been timidly pointing out that, thanks to the CAP, French taxpayers are already paying farmers 49 centimes in subsidies out of every franc they earn on the markets.

As the farmers did their stuff in Paris and around France yesterday, the government stepped up its "second front" in the battle with the Americans, a campaign to prevent the film and television industry being subject to the free-trade rules of Gatt. Alain Carignon, the communications minister, led a dozen film stars and directors, including Gérard Philipe and Isabelle Huppert, to Strasbourg to make the French case. Jacques Toubon, the culture minister, said this week the government would block the Gatt accord if the "audiovisual" industry was not fully exempted. President Mitterrand was in South Korea on a mission to press French ex-



A barricade of burning tyres bails peak-hour traffic yesterday on the A6 south of Paris, one of several set up by farmers denouncing a Gatt deal

ports yesterday, with Sophie Marceau, the young film star, in his official delegation. Yesterday's relative failure by the farmers reflected a belief among many that further protests were counter-productive, given the vehemence with which the Gaullist government has sworn to defend them. Jacques Chirac, the

Gaullist leader, mayor of Paris and former agriculture minister, politely urged the farmers to desist on the eve of their action, promising them he would make sure they were not betrayed. As the clock ticks towards the September 20 ministerial meeting in Brussels, it is becoming hard to see how M Balladur can

find a compromise with his EC partners on banding Blair House which will not trigger a violent new jacquerie among the farmers. Although Spain, Ireland and Portugal have indicated some sympathy with the French position in recent days, Britain and Germany and the European Commission have been standing firm

in their refusal to try to reopen negotiations, a course which President Clinton rejected on Monday. The consensus among diplomats is that the Americans will come round to accepting some "interpretation" of Blair House which would be acceptable to France. Jean Puech, the French agriculture minister, said last

night support within the EC for the French position on Blair House was growing. "I perceive a very clear change in people's views," he said after talks in Brussels. "The spectre of a crisis is not far off. We don't want one, but one is possible given the major strategic stakes for France and Europe."

Bid to amend Gatt terms finds little support in EC

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND
MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AT A make-or-break meeting in Brussels next Monday, France will try to tie the hands of Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commission's chief negotiator in the present round of world trade talks.

The "jumbo" meeting of foreign and agriculture ministers has been called by France

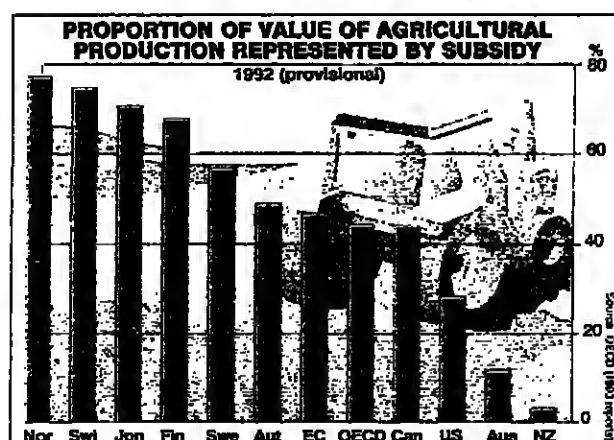
EUROPE

as part of an intensifying campaign to talk down the prospects of a world trade deal by Christmas under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt). France also wants to unblock the EC-US deal reached at Blair House in Washington last year on lowering farm subsidies in Europe and America.

Jean Puech, the French farm minister, said in Brussels yesterday that Monday's meeting "must decide clearly and cleanly to reopen negotiations with the US" on the farm sector. He threatened the

"spectre of crisis" if the EC spurned French demands. Gillian Shephard, the agriculture minister, who will attend Monday's talks, said any attempt to amend the farm subsidy deal would jeopardise the liberalisation of world trade with "appalling effects".

Before meeting Sir Leon in Brussels yesterday, Günter Rexrodt, the German economics minister, said that there might be room for "flexible interpretations" of Blair House, but no more. He said the Commission should be given "no new mandate" on Monday and should retain its freedom to negotiate. Ian Gardiner, policy director of Britain's National Farmers' Union, said yesterday: "We share French concern about the impact of the accord on agriculture, but we worry that if the EC starts attacking the basic principles underlying the deal it could trigger a much wider trade dispute, which would be disastrous for the whole economy."



Brittan still optimistic after US bars changes

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WORRIED US trade officials decided on a wait-and-see policy yesterday after President Clinton's warning that there must be no going back on the farm subsidies agreement between America and the European Community.

Mr Clinton's remarks were levelled against the EC in the

six years. He should also convey American consternation that a French veto would imperil seven years of negotiations for a new global treaty under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which must be completed by December 15. Sir Leon left Washington yesterday to drum up support for Nafta in a region that has doubled its exports to Mexico in the past five years. Congressional constituents fear the loss of millions of American jobs to Mexican factories paying low wages if the treaty takes effect.

AMERICA

wake of talks between US trade officials and Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission and Commissioner for foreign trade. They were not directed personally against Sir Leon. One negotiator said they were taking care not to undermine his efforts.

Sir Leon will report to EC foreign and agriculture ministers on Monday that Washington is refusing to reopen negotiations on last November's Blair House agreement, which calls for a 21 per cent reduction in the volume of subsidised grain exports over

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Pack of 3 pure bristle brushes. 1", 1 1/2" and 2". **£3.19**

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12"	£4.99	
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FROM ANATOL. LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

Now Mr Shevardnadze has agreed to what many radical Georgian nationalists see as a humiliating peace imposed under Russian pressure. Mingrelians fear that this agreement may threaten their own communities in Abkhazia. As a result, some Mingrelian soldiers seem to be moving south from Abkhazia to turn their guns against the Georgian government.



In practical terms the overture to the East may mean little more than setting a detailed timetable and stating entry conditions. But Nato will have a mission of sorts — the projection of stability in the East. That, however, is not an

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN VITEZ

The most pitiful sight was of an elderly couple, Martin Ratkic, 67, and his wife Kata, 65, who were still locked in a final embrace. They had tried to hide beneath a pile of sackcloths in a barn, but their killer had clearly lifted up the rags and fired mercilessly.

Five other bodies had been left lying where they fell by the Croat authorities. One man who lay on the lawn outside his house had died with a tranquil look on his face. Inside his wife was lying in a pool of blood in the living room of their cottage. Another

News of the massacre leaked out after Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, and his Croatian counterpart, Franjo Tudjman, agreed a ceasefire in central Bosnia. The truce was also being ignored by HVO forces near the British forces' base at Vitez. They sealed off main roads around the camp as they launched mortar attacks on Muslim positions and bombarded the old Ottoman quarter of Vitez after the estimated 1,000 Muslims trapped in the town ignored an ultimatum to surrender at midday.

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From Barbie Doll to political dynamo

Annita Keating was dismissed as just a pretty face until she failed to curtsy to the Queen. Will she make the same mistake at Balmoral? Joanna Pitman reports

Annita Keating seemed no more than a spectator, a supporter and a washer of socks in 1991 when her husband, Paul, was made Australia's Labor prime minister and she moved with their four children into The Lodge in Canberra.

But all that changed one famous blustery afternoon in February last year when the Queen came to visit and Annita welcomed her without a curtsy.

In Britain, the tabloids rushed in to smear at this little "accident", the more charitable papers describing it as "ill-mannered" and "a nasty snub". In Australia, journalists suddenly swarmed their gaze back on to the premier's wife, a source of material which they had unsuccessfully pried into but then tossed away.

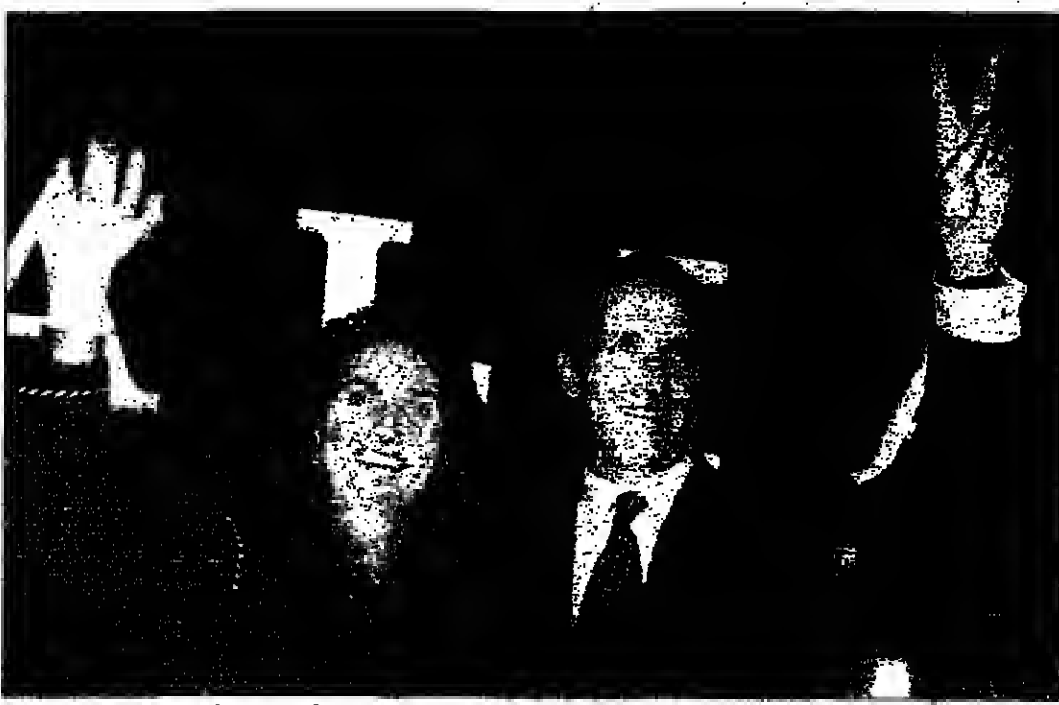
Annita Keating has flown back into public view with a personality profile all of her own. Gone is the picture of Annita, the former air stewardess, as upmarket Barbie Doll, discussed, if at all, in terms of her coltish long legs and fluttery eyes.

Thanks in part to the celebrated case of the missing curtsy, Mrs Keating is developing into a woman of political action. She has taken up the cause of women's rights, openly criticising Australia Post last year for failing to include a woman in its special issue of Olympic stamps. She makes speeches about health issues and has brought attention to Australia's growing problem of homeless children.

Slowly getting into her stride, she has made solo appearances on the campaign trail, delivering all the speeches, handshakes and other trappings of political posturing with a poise and an aplomb that has surprised many.

In keeping with her cautious restraint of the past, the transition from housewife and mother to high-profile honorary politician is being made gradually as Annita still places her highest priority on the happiness of her family and their privacy.

She remains unwaveringly loyal to her husband and, as a frequent visitor to parliament during ques-



Annita Keating on the campaign trail this year with her husband, Paul, the prime minister of Australia

tion time, she sits through his brutish performances, his routine yelling of "scumbag" or "you pack of pansies" at his opponents, and manages to avoid even so much as a quizzical raise of an eyebrow in dissent.

Here, perhaps, her air steward-

ess training in keeping a sweet smile for even the most odious of passengers has stood her in good stead.

She first met Paul Keating in 1971, when she was working as a stewardess on an Alitalia flight to Bangkok. She, the multi-lingual,

Dutch and very decorative 23-year-old, offered a high-pitched "tea or coffee sir?" to her 28-year-old passenger, the political rookie still living at home with his mother. She reminded him firmly to "please place your hand luggage underneath the seat in front of you".

It was a brief encounter. They chatted, he gave her his card. Mr Keating then embarked on a well-catalogued pursuit of Annita, all over the world. At intervals over more than two years, he chased her to Italy, The Netherlands, and finally to Buenos Aires, where he challenged a rival suitor, a pilot, to a swimming competition.

Mr Keating won the race and claimed his prize, marrying Annita in her hometown of Oisterwijk in 1975.

The marriage is, by all accounts, rock solid and happily bound-up with four teenagers who have been scrupulously sheltered from media attention. "She is the absolutely acme of the political wife. I got the feeling Keating could walk through a sewer and he would still smell sweet to her," says one television interviewer.

A solid Dutch practicality has helped Mrs Keating adapt to her new country. She is naturalised as an Australian, fluent in five languages, and has been seen as a fine diplomat when travelling with the prime minister on official visits to Japan, Spain and Indonesia.

This week she has been in Washington, backing up the prime minister's call for American support for APEC, the Asia Pacific free-trade group, before coming to Britain, where she will be launched into a very superior Scottish country weekend, at Balmoral with the

Queen. All eyes will be scrutinising Mrs Keating's footwork. The prime minister has warned that he will raise the question of Australia severing sovereign ties and becoming a republic. Mrs Keating, no doubt, will be helpful in steering the blow, but she is, nevertheless, wholeheartedly in favour of Australia as a republic.

Mrs Keating has already been embodied on canvas as the First Lady of a future republic, in a portrait painted by Bryan Westwood that is intended to show "the dawn of change in Australia".

The portrait, which has not yet been unveiled, was rejected four times by the fastidious prime minister who wants none of the "bag ends and bottle tops" of contemporary art, but late 18th-century French style.

The fifth attempt will reportedly show Mrs Keating with wavy hair full and loose, wearing a shoulderless dress and no jewellery.

At last she is showing herself to be more than merely the unknown "asset", who can bake a mean Pavlova, demonstrate latch-hook rug-making, and who looked pretty good, her hair done like Audrey Hepburn, in a photo shoot for Vogue in March. A small political dynamo is in the making.

More of Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopedia of Britain*

M1 air crash On 8 January 1989 a Boeing 737 on a British Midland flight from London to Belfast, crashed on the M1 motorway near Kegworth in Leicestershire, killing 47 of those on board. It transpired that one of the two engines had been malfunctioning and that the pilots had in error shut down the other. There was subsequent criticism not only of their action but of the layout of the instruments on the cockpit panel.

M62 coach bomb IRA terrorist atrocity in February 1974, when a bomb exploded on a coach carrying British soldiers and their families, from Manchester to Caterick on the M62 motorway. Nine soldiers, a woman and two children died, and many were injured. Judith Ward was jailed for the crime in November 1974 and had her sentence quashed in 1992.

The Mabinogion A collection of 11 tales on legendary and heroic subjects, written in Welsh in the 11th-13c but based on earlier oral traditions. They all appear in the manuscript known as the Red Book of Hergest (c1400, in Jesus College, Oxford) and several are in the earlier White Book of Rhydderch (c1320, National Library of Wales). They were first published in an English translation (1838-49) by Lady Charlotte Guest (1812-95).

John McAdam (1756-1836) Engineer who invented road surface, first put into general use in 1815 in the Bristol region, which proved much more durable than the alternatives. The principle of the 'macadamized' road was that the surface should be well drained and raised slightly above ground level. McAdam achieved this by laying graded stones, with the largest at the bottom. There were usually three layers, each compacted

Dial M for memory

MACS dominate today's extract from Bamber Gascoigne's new *Encyclopedia of Britain*, which comes halfway through our series (T and I have already appeared; E and S will be given tomorrow and on Saturday). There will, of course, be a myriad Macs in any chapter dedicated to the letter M. Scots may therefore have the edge in the Great British Quiz (below, right).

A first prize worth £5,000 awaits the winner of the quiz, which began on Tuesday. There are five other prizes worth £1,000. The *Encyclopedia* is published on September 24 and quiz entries must arrive by October 1.

by the road being opened to carriage traffic for several weeks before the next was laid. The addition of tar later in the century provided the tar macadam road, and that in turn led to 'tarmac', a trade name for a related process.

Thomas Macaulay (1800-59, baron 1857) Historian who was from the start a precocious child (answering at four a kind enquiry after he had hurt himself with "Thank you, madam, the agony is abated" and writing at eight a *Compendium of Universal History*). His *Lays of Ancient Rome* (1842) were immediately popular and *The History of England* (4 vols, 1849-55) sold as no book of history ever had before. His narrative excitements compensated for its very narrow range compared to the broad claims of the title: intended originally to run from 1583 to 1830 (as an account of pre-Reform constitutional monarchy), it progressed no further than the end of the 17c.

Dave McAuley (b 1961) Northern Irish boxer who won the IBF world lightweight title by defeating Duke McKenzie in 1989. He made seven successful defences of his title before losing it in June 1992 to Rudolfo Blanco.

Willie John McBride (b 1940) Northern Irish rugby union player, a powerful lock, with a record number of 17 caps for the "Lions" (1962-74); combined with his 63 for Ireland (1962-75), this gave him the world's highest number of international rugby appearances until narrowly overtaken by Mike Gibson in 1979.

Paul McCartney (b 1942) After the break up of the Beatles, McCartney formed Wings in 1971 — with his wife (Linda Eastman, whom he married in 1969), Denny Laine, Henry McCullough and Denny Seiwell. By far the most successful number commercially was *Mull of Kintyre* (1977), which was the biggest-selling single in the UK (2.5 million copies) until outdone by *Do They Know It's Christmas?* (Boh Geldof and Band Aid, 1984). In 1991 his *Liverpool Oratorio*, co-written with Carl Davis, was performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic; the piece was commissioned for the orchestra's 150th anniversary.

Liz McColgan (Liz Lynch, b 1964, m Peter McColgan 1987) Scottish long-distance runner who won the gold medal for the 10,000 metres at the 1986 Commonwealth Games and retained her title in 1990. Over the same distance she was the Olympic silver medalist in 1988 and won the gold medal in the 1991 World Championships. In 1991 she began to run marathons, winning the first that she entered (New York). In 1992 she set the world

indoor 5000 metres record, with a time of 15:03.17.

Alec McCowen (b 1925) Actor best known for his stage performances, and in particular for a solo tour de force in which he narrates the entire Gospel according to St Mark.

Hugh MacDiarmid (pen name of Christopher Murray Grieve, 1892-1978) Scottish poet, much involved with Scottish nationalism and left-wing politics, who defined his duty as a poet as being not to lay a tit's egg, but to erupt like a volcano, emitting not only flame but a lot of rubbish. In the 1920s he began to write in an artificially revived version of a Scots dialect (see *Lallans*), looking for his model not to Burns but much further back, to "Dunbar; he was particularly successful with this idiom in the long poem *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle* (1926). In 1934 he joined the "Communist Party of Great Britain (his output at this period included two 'hymns to Lenin'). Expelled from the party in 1938 for 'national deviation', he demonstrated his cussedness by rejoining in 1957, a year after Russia's invasion of Hungary.

Flora MacDonald (1722-90) Scottish heroine famous for her part in the escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie (Charles Edward Stuart) in 1746. She met him when he was in Benbecula, in the outer Hebrides, and she arranged for him to cross to greater safety in Skye as a member of her party; he was in female disguise and was described as Betty Burke, an Irish spinning maid. After the prince had slipped through the English net, suspicion fell on Flora; she was brought to London and was briefly imprisoned in the Tower. She emigrated to North Carolina in 1774, but returned to Scotland in 1779.

Ramsay MacDonald (James Ramsay MacDonald, 1866-1937) The Labour party's first prime minister, in 1924 and 1929-35. Born the illegitimate son of a farm servant in a Scottish "hut and ben", he made an early name for himself in radical politics and was in 1900 the first secretary of the newly formed Labour Representation Committee (the original name of the party). He became MP for Leicester in 1906 and succeeded Keir Hardie as leader in 1911. He was without a seat from 1918 (his pacifism had lost him much public sympathy in the war), but was elected for Aberystwyth in 1922. The election of 1923 returned 258 Conservatives, 191 Labour members and 159 Liberals, enabling MacDonald to become prime minister with Liberal support in January 1924.



Top: twelve people died when a bomb exploded on a coach on the M62. Above: the M1 air crash, in which 47 died

The Conservatives recovered an overall majority later in 1924 (in an election influenced by the "Zinoviev letter"), but in 1929 Labour was for the first time the largest party. MacDonald's new government had to grapple with the problems of the "Depression", and a financial crisis in 1931 caused him to offer his resignation to the king. Instead he was persuaded to stay on as head of a "national" government, a coalition with the Conservatives and the Liberals. His own Labour party became the Opposition, headed now by Arthur Henderson (1863-1935). They lost nearly all their seats in the election later in 1931, a sequel for which many in the party never forgave MacDonald. In 1935 he resigned the premiership to another member of the national government, Stanley Baldwin.

* Asterisks indicate other entries.
● Extracted from Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopedia of Britain*, published by Macmillan on September 24, price £29.95. © Bamber Gascoigne, 1993

The Great British Quiz

The third set of 20 questions in our five-day quiz. All today's answers have an M flavour and can be found in Bamber Gascoigne's *Encyclopedia of Britain*

41. Who in 1965 created a ballet, *Song of the Earth*, to Mahler's music?
42. Whose first novel was *Liza of Lambeth*, published in 1897?
43. Which World War II plane was made of wood?
44. Which normally discreet organization has an eye-catching new building at the east end of Vauxhall Bridge?
45. Who responded in 1899 to a piquant smell in a Birmingham grocer's shop?
46. Who painted *The Return of the Dove to the Ark*, now in the Ashmolean?
47. Which programme was written and presented by Arnette Mills?
48. Who is the best-known friend of Antonia de Sancta?
49. In memory of which poet is a cottage in Chalfont St Giles kept as a museum?
50. Who likened privatisation to selling the family silver?
51. What was performed annually for charity in London's Grosvenor Hospital?
52. What was given to Richard Verinder on her 18th birthday?
53. Who wrote the signature tune *Calling All Workers*?
54. Which liner held the blue ribbon of the Atlantic from 1907 to 1909?
55. Where did 42 people die in a 1975 tube disaster?
56. Who designed the London theatre which opened in 1910 with the novelty of box-to-box telephones?
57. Of which group of seven was Giuseppe Conlon a member?
58. In which series did Gary Webster follow Dennis Waterman?
59. Where in England was a tapestry factory established in 1619?
60. Which ship was the first to transport oil through the Suez Canal, in 1892?

● Keep your answers safe. Full rules of entry will be given on Saturday.

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When women confront their doctor... hidden danger in the Commons... good news for Norfolk

The mother's right to fight

THE CASE of the Midlands woman who had a hysterectomy despite the surgeon finding after they had opened her up, that she was pregnant, has recently received some publicity.

Today is the first birthday of a boy in the Midlands whose life was saved at the eleventh hour by his mother's determination when her pregnancy went unrecognised by her doctors. Mrs Robinson, 40, does not want her real name divulged in case her good relationship with her doctors is damaged. But she feels her story serves as a valuable lesson to the medical profession and to other women in her situation.

Her son is already walking and she describes him as "very intelligent, an absolute dream, always cheerful and a great sleeper. We haven't had one night up with him since he was born".

Mrs Robinson's 12 years of



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

marriage were marked by a terrible gynaecological history of infertility, punctuated by a series of miscarriages. She and her husband had always wanted a baby and both realised that some of the enthusiasm with which she pursued her career in one of the professions was a way of dealing with frustrated maternal desires.

Last year Mrs Robinson's comparative heavy but short four-day periods were blamed for her increasing anaemia — her haemoglobin had fallen to less than six, half of what it should be. She now feels that this was likely to have been a result of too-enthusiastic vegetarianism.

Mrs Robinson's GP, who was always a great support, arranged a private appointment with a local gynaecologist who — after a D and C, ultrasound and a hysteroscopy — said that her uterus was a mass of fibroids and that her anaemia

would never be cured until she had a hysterectomy. "There is just no alternative", Mrs Robinson protested that she was reluctant to have the operation. She told the gynaecologist that she would not feel wholly feminine without her uterus and, moreover, she had the suspicion that it was enlarged because she was pregnant. She felt pregnant and, after all her miscarriages, she knew all about feeling pregnant.

The surgeon was dismissive and Mrs Robinson will never forget his opening words in reply to her statement: "You are a very silly woman, let's just have this womb out and be done with it." He attributed her symptoms of pregnancy, even recent absence of a period, to hormonal changes, heralding the approach of the menopause and refused to discuss the matter further. He booked a bed and arranged a time for the hysterectomy.

At the last moment Mrs Robinson telephoned to postpone her admission and, meanwhile, slipped off to buy a pregnancy test at the chemist. The test was positive. She then surreptitiously organised a scan through a friend at the local NHS hospital and this confirmed her own diagnosis.

Now, a year after a successful Caesarian section, she is seemingly a contented, well-balanced and happy mother delighting in the presence of her small boy.

She says she has learnt several lessons. As well as giving up



The Palace of Westminster — is the asbestos there a danger?

vegetarianism she now knows that experts, whether in her own profession or in other disciplines, are fallible. She also believes that members of the public, whether clients or patients, have the right to discuss their worries and that such discussion is valuable.

Doctors, too, can learn from the case and should remember the old adage that any woman from 15 to 50 who has missed a period is pregnant until proved otherwise. Doctors should be no more surprised that women want to keep a useless uterus than they are when elderly men with prostate cancer are prepared to risk death rather than be castrated.

Deadly fibres

PLINY, who lived in the first century AD, described how the weavers who made the wicks which were carried by the vestal virgins in ancient Rome wore masks to protect themselves from inhaling the fibres of the asbestos which was used to make them.

It was not until the 1930s that doctors again realised the part played by asbestos as a cause of occupational disease, but even then it was only in the 1960s that the thousands of electricians, plumbers and demolition workers who were subjected to its deadly

dust were fully apprised of the risk they ran. Pipe fitters on ships, and others exposed to asbestos during shipboard life, where air circulation is restricted, seemed to be in particular danger.

It is still comparatively common for doctors to see men whose war service in the Navy is as much commemorated by the asbestos-induced plaques on the inside of their chest wall as it would be by any medals they could wear on their jackets.

Last week it was announced that asbestos had been found in the House of Commons. The risk to Honorable Members must be negligible — as opposed to the builders who restored the building after the war and the maintenance men who have worked there since.

Asbestos comes in three types, chrysotile (white), crocidolite (blue) and amosite (brown). The blue and brown are responsible for the great majority of cases of mesothelioma, the highly malignant and dreaded tumour of the pleura, the covering of the lung. Although in most cases the chance of developing mesothelioma is related to the amount of asbestos inhaled, in some cases even short exposure to the dust is all that is needed to stimulate the malignancy.

All three types of asbestos also cause other chest diseases — non-malignant pleural plaques, fibrosis of the lungs, and occasionally cancer of the lung. These risks are more pronounced in cigarette smokers.

Eat your greens

THE report of scientists from the US National Cancer Institute, in conjunction with Chinese colleagues, confirms the belief that additional anti-oxidant vitamins and selenium reduce the death rate from some cancers. The five-year study of 30,000 patients in a remote rural area where diet and lifestyle were likely to remain largely unchanged recorded a 15 per cent fall in cancer death rates.

There have recently been several studies which demonstrate that the anti-oxidant vitamins, vitamin E and Beta carotene, as well as vitamin C — whether in pill form or in red, orange or dark green vegetables and fruit — provide protection against cancer and coronary heart disease.

Particularly pleasing to people in Norfolk is the inclusion of the mineral selenium in the recommended cocktail. Parts of the county are very rich in selenium. Those of us no longer in the position to benefit from the hair curling properties of locally grown carrots or spinach can be consoled by the thought that the Beta carotene in them, as in imported citrus fruits, protects us from sun malignancies. Vitamin E can be taken in capsule form or in such items as wholemeal bread or liver.

Too old to be cured of cancer

Patients are dying prematurely having been denied the most effective treatment, Aileen Ballantyne writes

Up to 30,000 men and women are dying of cancer unnecessarily every year, because doctors decide they are simply "too old" to be treated, says a new report from the Cancer Research Campaign (CRC). Mr Fentiman, consultant surgeon and deputy director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's clinical oncology unit at Guy's Hospital, London, who has just published a report on cancer treatment for people over 70.

His report, in this month's *Current Practice in Surgery*, comes as doctors are being forced to make increasingly difficult choices. The number of effective, highly sophisticated, but expensive, life-saving techniques is expanding rapidly while health service resources remain limited.

Mr Fentiman, who is secretary of a working party on the elderly for the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, argues that criteria for such choices is based on a form of ageism.

He says that the age of a patient is often the first piece of information a doctor seeks when deciding how to manage his or her treatment. "Many then wrongly decide that it is not worth subjecting the patient to the more aggressive — but effective — forms of treatment because they believe the patient is likely to die of something else before the cancer kills them."

In fact, he argues, government figures show this belief to be erroneous. If a woman gets to 70, her chances of then

surviving to 82 are 50 per cent. If a man gets to 70, he has a 50 per cent chance of living to 77.

With Professor Gordon Melvin, scientific director of the Cancer Research Campaign (CRC), Mr Fentiman is calling for a revision to the traditional upper age limit of 70 in medical trials. Together, the two organisations, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the CRC fund more than 80 per cent of all cancer research in Britain.

"Most medical trials, which form the basis of all new drug treatments for any disease, do not accept patients over the age of 70 because of what many doctors see as the increased chance of the patient dying of a disease other than that being studied."

In cancer, one consequence of this tradition can be important when older patients are given effective treatment. If this involves new drugs, they may suffer unexpected side-effects. Older people sometimes react to drugs differently from younger people but without trials doctors cannot know of these discrepancies.

"Not entering someone into a medical trial of a new treatment just because they are regarded as too old is ageism," Professor Melvin says. "In America it is against the discrimination laws to operate such an age limit."

For the past seven years in Britain, many older women with breast cancer have been treated using tamoxifen, an oestrogen-suppressing drug, rather than by surgical removal of the tumour and radiotherapy or by mastectomy.

This approach was based on two premises: a belief that, in older people, cancerous tumours grow slowly; and a reluctance to put older people through the rigours of surgery or the tiring and uncomfortable process of radiotherapy.

Yoga, a recent study, funded by the Cancer Research Campaign, which followed patients for four years, showed that those given the best type of surgery for their form of breast cancer, coupled with tamoxifen, were at least 30 per cent less likely to suffer a recurrence, and 5 per cent less likely to die, than those treated with tamoxifen alone.

If these figures are applied to all cancer patients over 70 who do not receive the most effective form of treatment, Mr Fentiman estimates that up to 1,000 people could be dying unnecessarily each year.

Mr Fentiman's report further suggests that the idea that cancer behaves more "indolently" in the elderly is a misconception. "Behaviour of tumours in the elderly cannot be predicted with accuracy," he writes.

A recent Danish study looked at the one-year survival rate of 657 patients aged 70 or more treated "curatively", compared with 224 treated "palliatively" (in other words treated only to alleviate symptoms and discomfort). The survival rate of those that doctors attempted to cure was 88 per cent, compared with 68 per cent in the palliative group. Five years on, only 19 per cent of the palliative group



Despite her age, Florence Major had her preferred treatment for cancer, a mastectomy. "Life doesn't become less valuable just because you get older," she says

were alive, compared with 54 per cent of the curative group.

Mr Fentiman believes that treating older patients in the same way as you would younger ones — based on their disease rather than their age — is justified by cases such as that of Florence Major, a retired further education lecturer from Bromley, in Kent. Three years ago, Mrs Major, who admits only to being "over 70", was referred to Guy's with breast cancer. Instead of just being given tamoxifen to try to slow the progress of the disease, the affected breast was removed. Since then, she has had regular check-ups and has been found to be clear of the cancer.

"Within ten days of the operation, I was well enough

to go to my niece's wedding", she says, "and then I went to New England without any trouble, my first visit to America, about a month after the operation."

Mrs Major, a widow, says that she wanted the treatment most likely to save her life. "Life doesn't become any less valuable just because you get older," she says. "I feel very fortunate — many people of my age lose their eyesight or their hearing, rather than simply a breast. I don't have to take any tablets and I feel as fit as I did ten or 15 years ago."

Some older women, however, unlike Mrs Major, are extremely upset at the idea of a mastectomy. For them, and for certain types of breast cancer, radiotherapy is likely to provide a better long-term chance

of survival than tamoxifen treatment alone. But such an approach may have enormous cost implications.

Radiotherapy can be physically tiring, and although younger patients may be able to travel to hospital every day for six weeks for the treatment, some older patients may find that difficult. "Not many radiotherapy departments have beds," Mr Fentiman says. "If you were to say to most surgeons, 'This patient will be having radiotherapy and I want to keep her in', their immediate response would be, 'That blocks a bed for six weeks and means I have to cancel four other major operations and eight minor ones'."

"At the end of the day it all comes down to what price we put on a human life."

Will the chemist put the doctor out of work?

Patients can get increasing numbers of drugs over the counter

Every profession has its restrictive practices and for doctors the most important is the exclusive monopoly on the right to prescribe drugs.

Many people would willingly skip the tedium of hanging around in the doctor's surgery and go straight to the chemist, were it not that they need the magic piece of blue paper with its hasty scribble which is necessary to obtain the drugs they require.

Gradually that monopoly is

being eroded as many more drugs are being switched from "prescription only" to "over-the-counter" or OTC. So far, ten drugs have changed categories including strong painkillers, the popular anti-inflammatory, Nurofen and mild steroid creams for eczema.

But this, it seems, is only the beginning. The medicines control agency is determined to accelerate the process, making a further 15 drugs OTC this year alone — including



Self-medication could end time-wasting queues in crowded doctors' waiting rooms

Acyclovir for herpes, the anti-ulcer drug Cimetidine and Intal for allergic conditions. There are, in addition, a further 36 drugs for which a change in status is under discussion. Soon the public will be able to treat themselves not just for coughs and colds but for herpes, impetigo, piles, asthma, gastritis, ulcers, arthritis and fibrositis and many other ailments.

This will, of course, require patients to take a stab at diagnosing their own symptoms. If one does not mind sharing one's ailments with everyone else in the chemist's

shop, the friendly neighbourhood pharmacist will be only too willing to give his advice.

Two factors have made this major shift towards self-treatment possible. First, many of these drugs are not only highly effective but remarkably safe. All drugs have the potential to cause side-effects, but compared with some of those already generally available like aspirin, which can cause gastritis or exacerbate asthma, compounds like Acyclovir and Intal cause hardly any adverse reactions at all.

Secondly, the justification is

financial. Last year the health service drugs bill soared by a quarter to £3 billion. As a result, both the Treasury and family doctors, with limited drugs budgets, are keen for public to start paying for drugs out of their own pockets.

Of course, critics such as Dr Colin Waine, of the Royal College of General Practitioners, are right to warn that many symptoms of apparently benign ailments like abdominal pain and nausea can simulate something altogether more sinister.

DR JAMES LE FANU

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Americans who flock to our shores

A letter to a friend in the United States contemplating a move to Britain

Last time I saw you, you told me that you were thinking of moving to London, and asked my advice on doing so. You are not the only American to be asking the question.

You have various reasons which are making you consider what must be a big change in your life. Some of them are financial. You have serious educational concerns, and you are worried about the school your child would attend. But your main reasons are cultural. You feel that the United States is losing many of its old values, and that some of them have been better preserved in Europe, and in Britain in particular. You are also worried that if you stay in America, you or a number of your family will end up being shot, if only by a rioter.

Certainly many American families have re-emigrated successfully back to Britain. The Astors are probably the best known, and they did not even come from Britain originally, but from Germany. The decision to settle here seems to have worked well for them, and for Britain. They have produced a number of very distinguished citizens, of whom my favourite is David Astor, one time proprietor and editor of the London Observer and the friend and patron of the good Germans of the 1940s. My own ancestors, on both my mother's and my father's side, went to America and came back again, and I have always been grateful for my American connections. Young Winston Churchill — now a formidable middle-aged Conservative MP — has Jennie Jerome for his great-grandmother, and his mother-in-law is now the American ambassador to Paris. These re-emigrations work quite intriguingly.

When I first went to New York, in 1951, there was a big gap between the financial opportunities there and in London. That has largely disappeared. President Clinton's new taxes have raised New York's marginal tax rates above London's, if you include the New York State tax. As far as I can make out, that has never happened before, certainly not in this century. For our taxes we get a free health service, whereas in America health insurance comes on top.

You tell me that you can earn as good a living in London as you can at home, thanks to the modern and fax. Intellectual industry is no longer determined by geography. You would find in London a back-up of lawyers, accountants, stockbrokers, bankers and so on who are just as sophisticated as in New York, though not necessarily cheaper. I doubt whether there are any financial arguments to keep you from moving here: Britain is quite kind to visitors as far as tax is concerned, and the US gives a substantial tax relief.

You ask me about crime in Britain; understandably you do not want to jump out of the frying pan into the fire. Our crime is worse than it was. Last night at dinner I was sitting next to a couple who had been burgled eight times in the last few years; their neighbour had her whole house stripped by burglars who came with a pantechnicon as though they were removal men. I suppose that is what they were. On the other hand we have a low murder rate. The chances of having

a car radio stolen are very high; the chances of having a house burgled are too high; the chances of being shot in the street are much lower than in New York, Washington, Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles or any other major American city. Certainly tourists in Britain do not run the risks they do in Florida.

As you say, crime is a problem for American schooling. A friend who lives in Georgetown tells me that he cannot use the state school system, because his child would be bussed to a school on the other side of Washington, next to a prison, where they have to take the guns off the children as they enter the playground. You would not find those problems here; even the bad schools are not dangerous in that way. We do have racial problems, in school as well as in society, but they are neither as widespread nor as serious as yours.

On average, British schools are not the best in Europe — your child would probably learn more in Germany or France. But you prefer an English-language education. Friends whose children have crossed the Atlantic tell me that the average English student is about

William Rees-Mogg

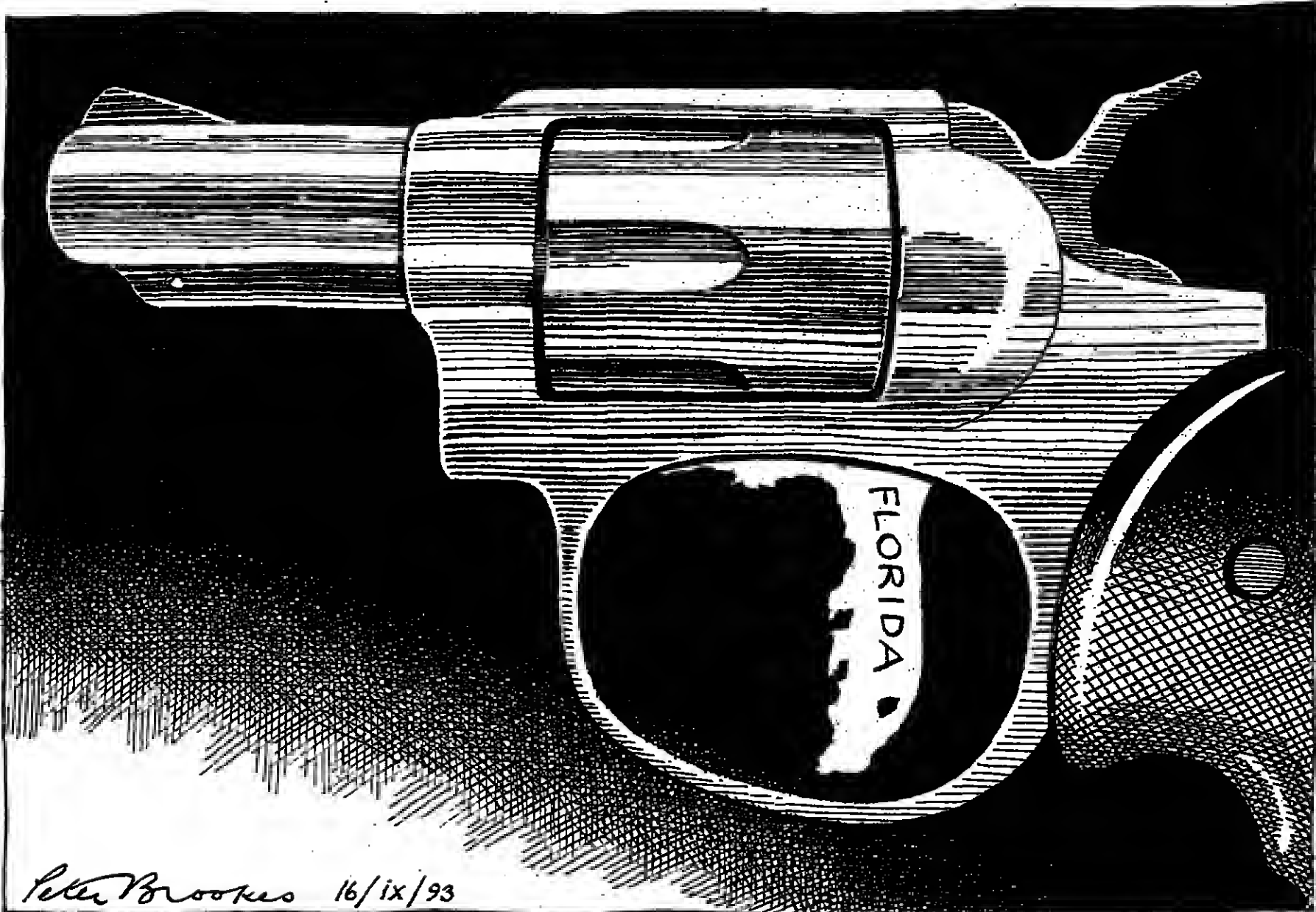
Taxes are lower here than in New York, probably for the first time this century — and we get a free health service

two years ahead of the average American at the point of leaving High School. I hear of a horror report which says that 90 million Americans cannot write a proper letter, or add and subtract on a calculator. Can this be true? Health care in Britain is free if you choose to use the National Health Service, or relatively inexpensive if you use the parallel, private American medicine has the edge if you are planning on a triple transplant. The expectation of life is identical (it is slightly higher in Hong Kong).

So I would not dissuade you from coming here on practical grounds. You could earn as much; you would pay less tax; your children would probably be better educated; you would run less risk of being murdered; the health care is free, and just as good for 99 per cent of cases. The politics may not be as exciting an observer sport, but I gather you would not wish to stay in the States just to watch Bill Clinton on television.

Finally there is the question of the cultural shift. Britain is obviously more European, indeed more British, than the United States. It does not have the crackle of nervous energy which makes America such a wonderful place to those of us who come to you from here. It is a less dynamic society, and responds more cautiously to change. But it is a society which has not lost its continuity with the past, either in its way of thought or in social relationships. That is still true of some parts of America. I can see no reason why anyone would want to leave Vermont to seek a quieter or more traditional way of life in Britain. But this is not true of your big cities. The big European cities remain what the big American cities are no longer: places in which it is possible both to enjoy the advantages of culture and business, and to lead a comfortable family life.

I hope you will come. Certainly Americans in Britain are making more than an average contribution to British life.



THE SUNSHINE STATE

The day I almost quit

A year after Black Wednesday, Norman Lamont urges Britain to steer clear of monetary union

It is 12 months to the day since Britain's policy towards the European exchange-rate mechanism collapsed. There is no other way to describe it. It was certainly not planned; it was forced upon us: a humiliation for the government, the prime minister and myself, which led ultimately to my resignation from the government.

Of course I have often reflected whether it would have been better if I had resigned immediately. I certainly considered that option at the time, but the prime minister said he did not want it. Had I known that he would change his mind as he did, I would have done so. But I had the satisfaction of putting in place an entirely new basis for monetary policy and seeing the tangible evidence of Britain's recovery from the recession.

Embarrassing and humiliating as the events of a year ago were, it is now clear, following the general breakdown of the ERM last month, that the circumstances which led to Britain's exit from the mechanism were beyond the control of this country or any other. In so far as we had a choice, it was between leaving the ERM voluntarily and being forced out.

Twelve months do lend those events some perspective. Newly revised figures on the economy now show that the boom of the late 1980s was even stronger than had previously been thought, and that the recession was somewhat shallower. It was not the ERM that caused the recession; after the boom, a correction was needed. This was the recession that had to happen.

This has wrongly been described as the deepest recession since the second world war. We now know that output fell by 3.8 per cent, peak to trough, compared with 5.5 per cent in the recession of the early 1980s. The recession of the early 1990s has more in common with that of the mid-1970s, when output fell by 3.4 per cent, but which lasted slightly longer.

There is no doubt that towards the end of our membership, the ERM forced upon us a policy that

had become inappropriate to British needs. Our policy was too tight in 1992. While I had concluded that this was the case, and was moving towards the solution that the markets finally imposed, I do not regret the impact it had on the economy. Critics might say that it prolonged the recession, even though the recession ended nearly six months before we left the ERM, but it did lead to a faster than anticipated fall in inflation.

There is no objective measure of the optimum trade-off between output and inflation (the "price worth paying"), which in any case holds only over the short term. For my part, it is clear to me that the besetting problem of the British economy over the past few decades has been its tendency to become inflationary as the economy grows, and not under-stimulation by governments. Those who are not prepared to fight inflation would be more honest to acknowledge this.

What our ERM membership helped to achieve was the decisive break in inflationary expectations which eluded us in the 1980s, when wage increases never fell below a floor of 5 per cent a year. Wages are now rising at only 3.5 per cent a year, and are on a downward trend. Productivity increases are easily outstripping wage increases, leading to falling unit wage costs. It is hard to overstate the implications this has for the economy. It means inflation can be kept down, jobs can be created and industry can rebuild its profit margins. Britain has not had such strong economic fundamentals at any time during the 20 years I have been in politics.

Creating such an environment was central to the government's purpose when it was first elected in 1979. Clearly the trade union reforms of the 1980s played a key part. So too did our membership of



the ERM, as it maintained strong disinflationary pressure.

Where I feel the critics are on stronger ground is their doubts about the politics of the ERM. We entered the ERM for the wrong reasons. Margaret Thatcher wanted a cut in interest rates and, I believe, allowed her judgment to be swayed by short-term considerations. Douglas Hurd and John Major wanted to join as part of the government's European policy, and to preserve party unity on what could be a difficult issue. But monetary policy should be simply about controlling inflation, not about fulfilling such political aims. The government's desire to be "at the heart of Europe", together with the Maastricht treaty, constituted a huge political obstacle to voluntary departure from the ERM.

What made our membership of the mechanism unsustainable was German reunification and its far-reaching consequences. Because of soaring public spending after reunification, interest rates took too much of the strain in coping with

the boom. Perversely, subsidising interest rates in eastern Germany forced western German rates even higher, so keeping interest rates too high throughout Europe. These rates were as inappropriate for France and Italy as for Britain. The markets perceived this all too clearly, and having picked off Britain, they saw that French policy was equally unsustainable and vulnerable. For France, the humiliation was even greater than for Britain, since the "franc fort" had been the cornerstone of policy through three French governments.

Some have drawn the conclusion that all this shows that fixed exchange rates cannot ever work. Certainly it is the case that fixed systems cannot work if the anchor currency no longer acts as a stable anchor. It was America's problems in financing Vietnam and a large expansion of the welfare state that led to the demise of the Bretton Woods Agreement, and 20 years later the problems of Germany led to the collapse of the ERM. But it also has to be remembered that the Bretton Woods system lasted for 30 years and the ERM for 13. Each system provided stability and low inflation for long periods.

In a world of huge capital flows, floating may be the only way of the future, but no one should think that managing the economy through monetary aggregates is straightforward or simple. Past difficulties led chancellors as different as Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson to look for an alternative, and no chancellor is ever going to be indifferent to the exchange rate.

As the only chancellor within the past 20 years to have operated within a fixed-rate system, my perspective is different. Even when the

problems caused by German reunification have been fully digested, I doubt if Europe will be able to return to fixed rates. The abolition of exchange controls added to the problems of the ERM, and I cannot see some of the weaker members reducing their public debt ratios by a sufficient amount within any realistic timescale.

In my view it would be folly for the countries of the European Monetary System to try to move back to the narrow hands of the ERM, and talk of accelerating monetary union is just pious, unrealistic Eurovision. Far better to abandon the goal of monetary union. As a former chancellor, I believe it is imperative that the evolution of our monetary policy should ever again be constrained by political factors such as those I have described. To this end, we should disengage from the discussions on monetary union, and the prime minister should state categorically that Britain will not be participating in the third stage of monetary union.

We now have a national monetary framework, which I established and which the markets understand. Its credibility will be tested when the time comes to raise interest rates, as surely it will. Some appear to dispute this, and it has become fashionable to say that inflation is now dead and that we are in an era of low inflation. Certainly the European recession will mean low inflationary pressure for some time. But there is nothing certain about low inflation in the medium term. Inflation is not something one can go out and shoot and then leave for dead.

The level of inflation in the late 1990s will depend on the determination of policy-makers and on the policy followed today. I can see plenty of reasons why inflation could be politically attractive for a short while, especially given the high level of household debt and rapid growth of public debt. That is why it is vital that public finances are brought back towards balance, an issue that I am sure will dominate public debate this autumn.

Job for a lifer?

SO WHO will replace Lord Heseltine, the government chief whip in the House of Lords, best known for his talent for quenching the ardour of many an aspiring Maastricht rebel with a wickedly mixed bloody mary?

An announcement from Downing Street is imminent, but in the meantime gossip is rife. At the moment it looks like a two horse race. Neck-and-neck are Lords Strathmore and Strathclyde. At first glance, Strathmore, 36, seems the better bet, having served two years as Heseltine's deputy. As well as possessing youth and charm, he is a hereditary peer, which is still considered a vital attribute in the fusty atmosphere of the chamber, where received wisdom is that hereditary peers can whip life peers but not vice versa. With the prime minister eager to improve relations with the royal family, the fact that Strathmore is the Queen Mother's great-nephew may also not go unnoticed.

Strathclyde, on the other hand, is three years younger,

but has more government experience. Currently environment minister, he has also served time in the environment and trade departments, and at the Scottish Office. Like Heseltine and Strathmore, he also cuts a fashionably substantial figure — an inestimable advantage in a chief whip, whose main weapons, it is said, are persuasion, bullying and gin.

Viscount Cranborne (Eton and Oxford) is another possibility. Formerly MP for Dorset South, he is now parliamentary under-secretary at the Ministry of Defence. He is very highly regarded: last year John Major adopted a procedure used only three times in the past 300 years to accelerate his progress into the Lords.

But in the prime minister's classless society, could it be time for a life peer to take over? Probably not. The appointment of someone like Lord Archer, it is felt, could lead to the so-called backwoodsman returning permanently to their woods, while the elevation of Michael

Heseltine is ruled out because it would prompt a by-election. Lord Hailsham says it is a hard post to fill. "The chief whip in the Lords, unlike the Commons, has no power or sanction over anyone. You have to be very good with people, to know everything about everybody, and to be able to persuade people without sanctions." But he does not believe it matters whether the whip is a hereditary or life peer. "Many of the most important peers are hereditary peers, and the chief whip has to know them all. But a life peer can do that just as well."

With the day of reckoning for Manchester's Olympic bid almost upon us, a three-line whip has been imposed on ministers to seek support for the bid when abroad. On his recent trip to Saudi Arabia, the unspurring but dutiful Douglas Hurd casually enquired whether the support of Prince Saud al-Faisal, the urbane Saudi foreign minister, might be relied upon. Prince Saud's response surprised even the unflappable Hurd. "Of course, you know I have always been a Manchester United supporter."



Category mistake

RELATIONS between the media and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, appear to be reaching a new low, if the introduction to a collection of his sermons, *Sharing a Vision*, launched last night at Lambeth Palace,



DIARY

is any guide. Richard Holloway, the Anglican bishop of Edinburgh, says the book is important because it gives the public an opportunity to make up its own mind about Carey. He urges Carey not to be depressed or deflected by "the fiddle preoccupations of the British press". The "unwanted attentions" of journalists, says Holloway, should be treated the way a driver speeding through the countryside treats the insects that end up coating the windscreen of the car.

God may notice every sparrow that falls, but evidently insects and journalists fall into a different category.

Book battles

SIR Michael McNair-Wilson, the MP for Newbury from 1974 to 1992, would be proud. His widow has just published

Battle for a Kingdom, a history of the Battle of Newbury, which he finished writing a week before his death in March.

According to Lady McNair-Wilson, her husband had been commissioned by a commercial publisher to do the book, "but when Michael died they did not want to go ahead. The publisher was relying on his presence to sell the book — his enthusiasm about the subject was infectious."

McNair-Wilson, she says, "was fascinated by the characters — the king, Essex, Lord Falkland. It sparked his imagination. He was so enthusiastic about it." But without a commercial publisher for the book, Lady McNair-Wilson has printed 300 copies privately, which she will sell in local bookshops, at the Newbury Show this weekend and, on September 25 and 26, at the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Newbury, with the guns of the Sealed Knot's re-enactment blazing around her.

"My husband wrote it to coincide with the anniversary of the battle. That's why I have published it now. It is also, of course, very much in memory of him."



Mother's champ

NIGEL SHORT has yet to overcome the immovable object of world champion Garry Kasparov. But Luke McShane, the nine-year-old chess master from London who earlier this year kept Kasparov guessing for a tense 50 moves, has an even bigger mountain to climb: his mother. In next month's *Harpers & Queen*, Luke's mother says that although she is "ridicu-

lously proud" of him, she actually hates the game.

"It's difficult to see a prodigy when you are constantly urging him not to pick his nose, to pull the flush, to eat his breakfast or to brush his teeth," she says. "After all, he is not some weird, introspective genius. Just a little boy, who goes to an ordinary school, has ordinary friends and looks forward to his weekly copy of *The Beano*."

A slap in the face for English Heritage, which has just had a proposal to install a blue plaque on a London house rudely rejected. The suggestion of a plaque on a house in Gledes Place, Chelsea, was turned down by its owner, the former Kensington and Chelsea mayor Jonathan Wheeler. But although he is a Conservative, Wheeler insists his objection has nothing to do with the socialism espoused by the former occupants Vera Brittain and Winifred Holtby. Nor by the fact that Britain's daughter is SDP founder Baroness Williams. "We just don't want a plaque on our house," he says. "It's nothing to do with the people."

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE

September 15: The Queen was represented by the Lady Farnham (Lady of the Bedchamber) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mrs Susan Varah (formerly Central President of the Mother's Union) which was held in Southwark Cathedral this morning.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

September 15: The Princess Royal, Alford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire (Captain Sir Henry Nevill).

Her Royal Highness later visited the Viking Centre, Theddlethorpe.

The Princess Royal, this afternoon opened North Somerset CE Primary School, Warren Road, North Somerset.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited Hill House Nursing Home and Equestrian Centre, Sand Lane, Osgodby.

The Princess Royal later opened Phase Two Development, Lincoln County Hospital, Greenwell Road, Lincoln.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, XXXth Congress of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association and the XXIII Annual Conference of the European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Assoc-

iation/European Renal Care Association, this evening attended the Opening Ceremony of the Conference at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, and was received by Councillor Patrick Lally (Deputy Lieutenant of Glasgow).

Mrs David Bowes-Lyon was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

September 15: The Prince of Wales this evening received the President of the Itochu Corporation (Mr Minoru Murafushi).

YORK HOUSE

September 15: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the Royal Ulster Constabulary Benevolent Fund, this morning presided at the Investiture of Queen's Police Medals and Bravery Awards at Hillsborough Castle, County Down, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Down (Colonel William Brownlow).

Her Royal Highness later opened the Somme Hospital, Circular Road, Belfast, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Belfast (Colonel J. Elliott Wilson).

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened Cammell House, Glencairn Community, County Down.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Royal Ulster Constabulary Training Centre, Garvaghy Road, Belfast, and later attended a Reception at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, County Down.

Her Royal Highness, the Royal Group of Hospitals, Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will attend the launch of the RSPB's Time and Tide policy document at Craigdarroch Hotel and Country Club, Ballater, at 12.15.

The Princess of Wales will open Images of Drugs in Southwark 93, an exhibition of local people's artwork, at the Albany Community Centre, 17 Albany Street, SE1, at 11.00.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of Citizens Advice Scotland, will open the second day of the conference at Strathclyde University at 9.30; as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Falmour Jeans at the Capeside Industrial Estate, Cairn Road, Cumnock, Ayrshire, at 11.30; and will attend the Western Meeting at Ayr racecourse at 12.45.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, as President of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Benevolent Society, will open Netherby, Eyemouth, Berwickshire, at 3.30.

The Duchess of Cornwall, as Patron of Council and Care, will attend a reception at the Knapp Gallery, Regent's College, NW1, at 7.00.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, will attend the Britannia Assurance championship, Surrey v Yorkshire cricket match, at the Oval at 1.20.

Memorial service

Mrs Susan Varah

The Queen was represented by Lady Farnham at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mrs Susan Varah held yesterday in Southwark Cathedral. Canon Roy White, Vice-Provost of Southwark, officiated.

Mrs Rachel Nuge and Mrs Hazel Treadgold read the lessons and Mrs Pat Harris, Central President of the Mothers' Union, gave an address.

The Right Rev John Waller led the prayers and the Very Rev Dr David Edwards, Provost of Southwark, pronounced the blessing. Others present included:

The Rev Chad Varah (husband); Mrs Jennifer Owen and Mrs Rosalind Smith (Vice-presidents); Mothers' Union; Mrs Mrs Ann (provincial president, Ireland) and Mrs Barbara Price (president, Diocese of Bristane).

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A second world war Vickers Wellington bomber, retrieved from Loch Ness in 1985, is now the star attraction at Brooklands Museum of Aviation and Motorsport, Weybridge, Surrey, where the Royal Aeronautical Society held its garden party. Thirty to forty volunteers work regularly on the plane which should be back in flying order in two years, if the museum can attract more sponsors to complete the job

School news

St George's School, Ascot

Boards returned to St George's School, Ascot, for the Autumn Term on September 7 with Natalie Johnston as Head of School. Old Girls' Day is on September 18.

Open Day for prospective parents is Friday, October 22 followed by Half Term until October 31. Confirmation will be held in the School Chapel on Saturday, November 13 conducted by the Bishop of Reading. Term ends after the Carol Service on December 18.

St Leonards and St Katharines Schools

The Autumn Term began on Tuesday, September 7. The Sixth Form Lecture programme for the new session began on the first day of term with an address by Mr Timothy Clifford, Director of the National Galleries of Scotland, the staff having been addressed on the previous day by Ms Kathleen Tattersall, Chief Executive of the NEA and Chairman of the Examination Board of the National Curriculum. Poetry Week begins on October 4. The Jull Music Competition takes place on October 23 after which girls will leave for half-term. There are Open Days on Tuesday, October 5 (St Leonards) and Wednesday, October 20 (St Katharines). 1994 will be St Katharines Centenary. Seniors wishing to be invited are asked to make themselves known to Mr and Mrs Bayley, the Joint Heads. Entrance Scholarships take place on Saturday, November 6. This includes entry into the St Leonards Sixth Form. Entrance Scholarships for this session have been awarded to Katie Skourupka (St Leonards) and sixth form scholarships to Jocelyn Andrews and Jane Cornwell (St Katharines). Head of Girl's St Leonards this session is Katie Halsey and Captain of School is Alice Galbraith. Mr Patrick Broadhurst is newly in post as Bursar and Secretary to Council. Term ends on December 18 with a Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church (St Leonards) and St Salvators (St Katharines).

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Piping
Players keep up high standards despite dispute over judging

By ANGUS NICOL

FOR a year and more the piping world has been split into two unequal factions. On one side stand the Association of Piping Adjudicators (APA) and the Competing Pipers' Association (CPA). Unwillingly placed on the other side, since the factions are in no-body's best interests, are the organisers of events, principally the Argyllshire Gathering, the Northern Meeting, Cowall, Skye, and the Scottish Piping Society of London.

The APA was formed for the laudable purpose of maintaining standards of both piping and judging. A number of eminent piping judges joined it, and a number did not. The latter were joined by some who resigned from the APA, for a number of reasons, among them, the APA's insistence that no APA judge would sit with any non-APA judge.

When it became clear that the organisers of the principal piping events would not comply with that rule, the CPA imposed a boycott of all those events at which APA members were not adjudicating. The sad result has been that APA members have not, for two years now, been judging at these events, since the rule is in practice unworkable.

The Argyllshire Gathering and Northern Meeting are now over for this year. On the whole, the boycott had little effect. At each event, there were two full days of excellent piping, of a standard as high as has been heard at either event for many years. Certainly, entries were somewhat fewer than in previous years, but this was largely due to the reduction of entries was noticeable in the more senior events. But in the Senior Piobaireachd at Oban and Clasp at Inverness a number of those eligible did not enter because they did not wish, or had not the time, to learn the four twentieth century tunes required. There were many pipers who entered in defiance of the boycott.

Fourteen pipers competed for the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal. It was won by Bruce Woodley, with a faultless performance of the Lament for Colin Roy MacKenzie. Second place was taken by Corporal Gordon Walker whose musical performance of the Lament for MacDonald was of the highest quality. A more serious mistake in the last line of the Lament for the Departure of King James, in what was otherwise a fine tune, left Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies in fifth place. Michael Grey, playing Beloved Scotland, took third prize, and Stuart Sheldene, who played the Prince's Salute, fourth.

These decisions seem to show a welcome development that judges now do not always rigidly apply the "rule" that a single mistake in an otherwise good and musical performance will rob the piper of any prize.

The Silver Medal, attracted an entry of 16, and was won by Sergeant Niall Matheson, with Sir James MacDonald of the Isles' Lament. The march competitions were well attended: 20 in the A grade, and 23 in the B grade. The A was won by Donald MacPhee, and the B by Allan Russell.

The first day ended with the March, Strathspey and reel competition; for former winners of the individual march and Strathspey and reel events. This was a very high quality event; although only seven played the competition was extremely high. First prize went to Corporal Gordon Walker, with Angus MacColl in second place.

Highland Society of London's Gold Medal: 1. Bruce Woodley; 2. Cpl Gordon Walker; 3. Michael Grey (Beloved Scotland); 4. Stuart Sheldene (The Prince's Salute); 5. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (Lament for the Departure of King James); 6. Malcolm MacPhee (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 7. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 8. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 9. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 10. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 11. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 12. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 13. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 14. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 15. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James); 16. P.M. Alasdair Gillies (The Lament for the Departure of King James).

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Highland Society of London's Gold Medal: 1. Bruce Woodley; 2.

MAJOR-GENERAL THOMAS BRODIE

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BALTIMORE, SEPT. 1.

... War is still the same instigator of violence, as in the days of Thucydides, and still makes men's tempers as hard as their circumstances.

It is terrible to see how 17 months of its abhorred sway have fostered and inflamed the savage dispositions which lie couched like wild beasts in the depths of the heart of man.

The American nation has long been too prosperous to be extravagantly resentful; but the violent and unnumbered hatred of the South, long disregarded if not dissipated by the North, who had previously reserved all their rancour and venom for England, is beginning to breed a corresponding antipathy. No one seems appalled at the thought that in the town of Washington, at this moment, there is said to be only one church in which Divine Service can be performed, and that all the other churches are converted into hospitals. It is but a few days since a sensible American, in reference to this fact, said to me, "Sir, we will convert every church in the Northern States into a hospital rather than let the South go." Few Americans care now to justify the war: Few would now

A race for the Olympic tourists

The 2000 Games city will attract more than athletes and sports fans: tourists will come, too, David Churchill reports

Next week the International Olympic Committee will decide where the Millennium Games are to be held, a choice that will instantly turn the winning city into a tourist goldmine.

Peking and Sydney, the front-runners, know that the Pacific Rim countries will be the most important new markets for world tourism by the end of the decade. Winning the Olympic vote will add the icing to the cake.

For Peking, says Derek Shanks, BA Holidays senior product manager, the verdict would make the city acceptable as a holiday destination. "The people who did not go because of what happened in Tiananmen Square will regard the IOC decision as sanctioning trips to China."

For Sydney, hosting the Games will be "the equivalent of having another bicentennial celebration", says Andrew Bathie, managing director of Australia specialists Austravel and Ausbound. The 1988 celebrations added 30 per cent to its visitor numbers and that level has been maintained.

Yet victory can be double-edged, Steve Garley, sales director of Thomson Holidays, points out that "every time we have one of these major sporting or cultural events, it distorts the market for

regular holidaymakers by pushing up hotel prices and flight costs. It's more of a hassle than a benefit."

Sarah Erskine, product manager with long-haul specialists Kuoni, says there is a "danger of hoteliers being too greedy, especially in a new market such as Peking".

This was a charge levelled at Barcelona, which hosted the Olympics last year. There was a 21 per cent increase in airport arrivals at the time, but the momentum has not been maintained. Even Brussels, for example, is ahead of Barcelona in popularity for European short-break holidays from Britain.

Both Sydney and Peking are in the fortunate position that whoever loses next Thursday's IOC vote, the impact on tourism will be less than both cities may initially fear.

Peking, in particular, is experiencing an upsurge in British visitors in spite of some reservations about the country's political stance. BA Holidays, for example, expects to double the holidays sold to Peking this year, although the numbers remain relatively small. "There is no doubt that people are prepared to go back now after the sharp downturn following Tiananmen Square," Mr Shanks says. China's visitor numbers dropped by a fifth in 1989 after the political upheavals that year.



For Sydney, hosting the Olympic Games would be the equivalent of another bicentennial celebration.

But China is not a cheap destination. International flights are still not keeping up with demand — British Airways is adding a second weekly jumbo flight next year direct to Peking — so there is only limited potential for discounted air fares. The limited availability of Western-style hotels in Peking also offers less scope for good deals.

Most Peking tourists usually combine a trip to China with another Far Eastern destination. A week in Hong Kong and a week in Peking with Kuoni, for example, costs just under £1,000 per person (based on sharing a twin room). Going with a group is usually less trouble, although independent travellers have found it easier in the

past year to get a visa. Travellers to Sydney have more opportunities for cheaper flights. John King, the Australian Tourist Commission's regional director for Europe, says that while Australia used to be considered a "once-in-a-lifetime experience", it has now become "both affordable and accessible as prices have actually fallen".

The Pickfords Travel/Hogg Robinson travel agency says the best deal for a return trip to Sydney next month is with Northwest Airlines for £662: the drawback is that the flight is via Detroit and with a plane change en route. British Airways next month has a direct flight for £1,017 — the same price as for Qantas.

Austravel, however, is offering fares of £549 on its Britannia charter flight — the aircraft is a Boeing 767 rather than the more usual long-haul 747. Landa Air's fare (via Germany) is £569.

If the outsider, Manchester, fails in its bid, it too can take heart from a rejuvenated tourist industry. The Greater Manchester area, in fact, now gets as many overseas visitors — 300,000 are expected this year — as Australia does from Britain. Elizabeth Jefferys, chief executive of the Greater Manchester Visitor and Convention Bureau, says: "This region was the home of the Industrial Revolution. People want to see where it all started." By 2000, Manchester airport expects 22 million passengers — double the present number.

English Heritage is strongly backing Manchester's bid to host the Games because it believes its success would benefit the city's historical heritage in the long term. Part of the proposals suggest that the Olympic Village should be in the Ashton canal area. Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman, says: "The plan would involve the refurbishment of Victorian mills and warehouses, and the opening of the canal for leisure."

Down on the farm

NOVEMBER sees the launch of the Farm Holiday Bureau (0203 696909), which will provide a central reservations system for farm holidays in the UK. Almost 200 members will take part, and the organisers plan to work with the British Tourist Authority to encourage independent tourists from overseas and business travellers to use the facility.

THE TRAVEL Club of Upminster (0708 225000) offers departures from Gatwick on September 26 to Luz Beach apartments on the Algarve, for two weeks at £424 per person, based on two adults sharing a one-bedroom apartment. In addition, up to two children under 12 can travel half-price if they are accompanied by two adults.

GLOBESPAN (0737 773171) offers fares of £99 one-way or £229 return from nine UK airports to Toronto, returning by October 10. Airport tax of £13 applies to return journeys. Flights are available from Gatwick, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Leeds/Bradford, Cardiff and Exeter.

A ONE-WEEK cultural tour of Sri Lanka combined with a week on the beach, is offered by Somak Travel (081-423 3000) starting from November. The 14-night trip costs from £1,032 per person including flights with Air Lanka and half-board accommodation.

Souvenirs on a Sunday?

Tourism bodies want deregulation of the old-fashioned trading laws

Overseas tourists visiting England are confused by the complicated Sunday trading laws and licensing regulations, according to the English Tourist Board (ETB).

Millions of pounds are being lost because tourists cannot shop for souvenirs on Sundays. This week, the ETB stepped up its campaign for deregulation by urging traders to write to their MPs before members return to the Commons in October to begin the debate on the issue.

The ETB says shopping is the second most popular activity with overseas visitors who put £2.2 billion a year into retailers' tills. Domestic tourists spend £1.4 billion.

Ros Carey, joint head of policy for the ETB and the British Tourist Authority (BTA), says: "I want people from all levels in the industry to support us by writing to their MPs, urging them to vote for deregulation."

"It is they who will benefit when this country can compete equally with other EC countries where Sunday shopping laws are more relaxed."

MPs will choose from four options this autumn: total deregulation; total deregulation for small shops and six hours trading for large shops and supermarkets; allowing only certain strictly defined types of outlet to open; allowing all shops to open on the four Sundays before Christmas and only "defined" outlets for the rest of the year.

The BTA and ETB say research shows that overseas visitors are puzzled by the present restrictions. "A total of 47 per cent of people questioned cited it as their biggest problem. They are as bewildered by our shopping rules as they are by our licensing laws," Ms Carey says.

She says the Japanese — one of the fastest-growing markets for Britain — are among the highest spending shoppers. "Japanese visitors tend to visit more than one country on a trip, and if their UK visit spans a weekend, they will likely as not find its way into a French or German till."

The BTA and ETB say that deregulation would bring England and Wales in line with Scotland, where shops are free to open as they please, even though only 22 per cent of shops actually open there on a Sunday.

The two organisations regard the traditional British pub as an under-used attraction, and would like to see more flexibility for late-night opening and Sunday hours.

The president of the Shopping Hours Reform Council, Sir Basil Feldman, says: "Tourism will certainly benefit from deregulation. In these days of short breaks and two or three day trips, tourists coming to London and other destinations stay for just one weekend. The more goods sold, the more jobs we will see created."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Taking root in France

The Riviera is celebrating its English botanical heritage

The statue of Queen Victoria which stands on the seaford at Menton will be decked in flowers tomorrow to help the town celebrate an exceptional botanical heritage.

For three days, this French Mediterranean resort near Monaco is to show the world that the "old" Riviera — which is essentially a British creation — is far from lost, despite the rampant development which has disfigured the coastline elsewhere.

For tomorrow only, the gates of three properties, which few but the highly privileged have been allowed to see in recent years, will open to the public.

One is a garden estate created by Lawrence Johnston, the American master horticulturist, believed lost and abandoned years ago. Johnston devoted himself to Menton between 1919 and 1939 after setting up Hidcote Manor Garden, near Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. He donated Hidcote to the National Trust in 1948 and it is now one of the trust's most visited properties.

The other French gardens, Les Colombières and Villa Fontana Rosa, equally evoke a lost era, when wealthy owners indulged their fantasies by erecting gazebos, ceramic temples and other such follies under a Mediterranean canopy of pines, palms and ancient olives.

With nightfall they will close again, but other gardens will remain open to permanent view, and celebrations will continue during the weekend. A garden festival and art display, are expected to attract 20,000 visitors.

English gentry first descended on Menton after a doctor, Henry Bennett, wrote a book praising its beneficial climate in the 1850s.

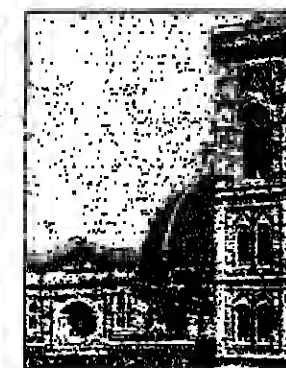
Then, retiring civil servants or army officers who had served with Queen Victoria and Country in far-flung corners of the Empire came to settle, making the British resident population of 5,000 one of the largest on the Continent.

The climate nourished the roots and cuttings they brought with them either from gardens in Victorian Britain or the exotic, tropical colonies.

TONY ROCCA

Tomorrow's guided tours of the gardens cost £150 a head. Menton tourist office: (010 33) 93.57.57.00

THE TIMES AUTUMN WINE TOUR READER OFFER



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Tuscany, with its vine-covered hills, cypress woods, pretty hilltop villages and magnificent cities of Siena and Florence, is a place many dream of visiting, and those who have returned again and again.

Today The Times, in association with Arborel & Clarke, the leading wine tour specialists, is offering readers the chance to join an exclusive tour of the region, from November 2-6, taking in the rolling hills of Chianti and tasting some of Italy's finest wines and cuisine.

There will also be a chance to explore Florence, the most celebrated centre of Renaissance art. Siena, with its Baroque and Romanesque architecture, and the old fortress towns of San Gimignano and Montepulciano.



The first three nights will be spent at the charming Belvedere Di San Leonino, a converted Tuscan farmhouse amid the vineyards outside Siena. The three-star hotel has spacious rooms, with traditional country furnishings, and the restaurant serves typical Tuscan fare.

From here there will be visits to leading estates to sample some of the region's finest wines, joining the owners over leisurely lunches.

The final night of the tour will be spent at the elegant, four-star Hotel Berchielli in the centre of Florence, with ample time next day to see some of the city's famous sights — including the Cathedral of Santa Maria di Fiore

and the Uffizi Gallery, with its outstanding collection of fine paintings.

The price of £629 per person (single supplement £115) includes return flights with Air UK from Stansted, three nights at the Belvedere Di San Leonino with a welcome dinner and wine on the first evening, breakfasts, three estate lunches with fine wines, one night at the Berchielli, luxury coach travel, information pack with wine tasting notes, and the services of a wine consultant.

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James Pringle reports from Bangkok, a tropical paradise being choked by traffic and over-commercialisation

Thailand cursed by congestion

Thailand's tourist industry is in crisis. Half the rooms in its new hotels are empty, staff are being laid off, traffic pollution makes walking in Bangkok city centre unpleasant, and monsoons have brought chaos and disease.

Bangkok's towering new hotels, condominiums and office buildings are a tribute to Thailand's status as a newly industrialised country. On the streets, however, traffic is immobile, as Thais and tourists struggle through monsoon floods, with overflowing effluent, dead rats and snakes. It can take three hours to get to the international airport from the city centre.

This week, the police chief appealed to people to use public transport to help get traffic moving again. However, the prospect of sitting virtually motionless in a bus inhaling Bangkok's choking exhaust fumes, said to be the world's worst, four times greater than accepted danger levels, holds little appeal when travellers can recline in an air-conditioned car.

"Basically, the infrastructure has collapsed," said a foreign hotelier. "The government can't even guarantee people can get to and from the airport. Businessmen now come in from Hong Kong or Singapore in the morning, see their clients at an airport hotel, and leave again in the evening."

Most hoteliers say the low occupancy rates have two causes, the first being the recession around the world, the second being Thailand's

excruciating image. Once an exotic destination, a languid tropical paradise of tree-shaded canals and exotic temples, the capital known to Thais as the City of Angels has become a latter-day hell of traffic jams, noise and pollution. It is a city of excess — an excess of cars (2.4 million), motor bikes (2.5 million) and brothels (more than 600) — not to mention broken pavements, potholed roads and department stores with illegal extensions that pose a safety hazard.

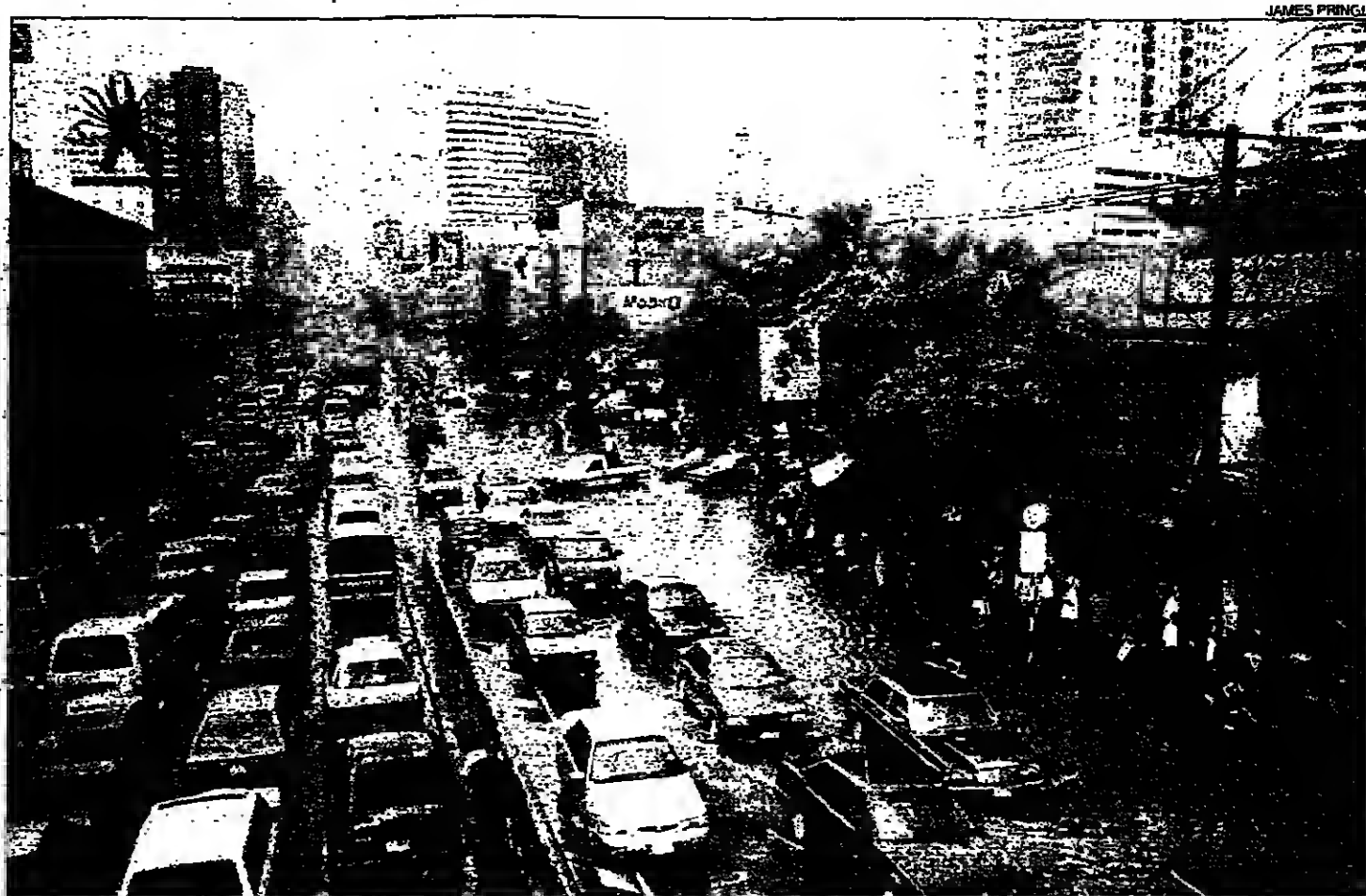
The cause of all this excess is a get-rich-quick greed that has overturned traditional Buddhist values and Thais' former satisfaction with a modest lifestyle.

Academics point to unplanned growth in Bangkok, lax enforcement and casual resort to bribery to circumvent regulations. "It makes the situation hell not just for tourists and foreign businessmen but for ordinary Thais," a diplomat said.

Only 8 per cent of the surface of Bangkok is covered by roads, compared with more than 20 per cent in London or New York. The population of the city area was six million in 1987, was nine million by 1991 and is likely to hit 11.5 million by 1998.

The situation is little better in the rest of Thailand, where much of the forest cover has been destroyed in the past ten years. The northern city of Chiangmai has become a mini-Bangkok of high-rises and traffic jams. The resort of Pattaya has been ruined by pollution on the beach and in the sea.

Samui island is an idyll lost to tacky development, now run by a



Dead rats and snakes are found floating in the effluent as traffic jams clog Bangkok's streets flooded by heavy rains of the monsoon

group of local families. Only Phuket, in the Andaman Sea, retains some pristine charm, though parts of that, such as Patong beach, have succumbed to a rash of beer bars, discos and prostitutes, of whom Thailand has an estimated 500,000.

Mexico City and Cairo were once perceived to have worse urban problems, but took steps to change them, whereas Thailand is overwhelmed by sex, drugs, AIDS, traffic jams and pollution.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) says 5.14 million tourists

arrived in 1992, a 1 per cent increase over the previous year. In the first half of this year, 2.51 million arrived, a 14.9 per cent increase.

But hoteliers say the slack has been taken up by a different kind of tourist, mainly Koreans, mainland Chinese and Taiwanese. "The TAT figures may look encouraging, but what they don't say is that these new tourists are not spenders; they are looking for bargain basement deals," said one hotelier. "Visitors from Europe, the United States and Japan are staying away."

Bangkok had 42,100 hotel rooms at the beginning of 1993, up by 24 per cent on a year earlier, and there are 5,000 more being built. While

hotels are expected to have a 55 per cent occupancy this year, many of these are based on cut-rate sales. Though recession has played its part, there are other disincentives.

Events such as the collapse of the provincial Royal Plaza Hotel last month, with 137 killed, and violence in southern Thailand that has left six dead, have deterred visitors. Thais joke that other Asian countries such as Bangladesh and the Philippines have natural disasters. Thailand has man-made ones.

Although the government says it will move to eliminate some of the problems, nothing has yet been done. Bangkok's street of glitz and sleaze, Patpong Road, is lined with

go-go bars and the stalls of a night bazaar selling counterfeit trade names.

Still, many foreigners seem content to come to Thailand. "Thais may be less polite than before, but after two days' rudeness in Hong Kong, I'm glad to get back," said one businessman.

One factor that can save Thailand is the interest in the relatively unspoiled lands beyond its borders — Burma, Cambodia, and the opening of Vietnam and China. "Bangkok is a station on the way to these other destinations and people are very attracted to them," said one foreign tourist executive. "That may save us in the end."

TRAVELOGS

Islands rethink age limit

THE BALEARIC Islands' government has bowed to pressure from tour operators in Britain and dropped its controversial plans to treat all holidaymakers over the age of 12 as adults.

The rule was due to come into force on January 1 next year, but the authorities were warned that the islands, which include Majorca, Menorca and Ibiza, could lose a million visitors as a result.

Now the government has agreed to raise the age limit for children sharing rooms with their parents to 15 years. The law applies only to rooms licensed for two people where an extra bed is allowed for a child sharing with parents.

The proposal had been intended to stop groups of teenagers sharing apartments designed for couples by booking with tour operators who treated under-19s as children.

Orient direct

CATHAY PACIFIC is to introduce a new direct service to Hong Kong from Manchester airport on October 31. The airline says it is responding to demands from customers from the north of England.

Other developments include the airline's move to Manchester's new Terminal 2 and the opening of a lounge for First and Marco Polo Business Class passengers and Marco Polo Club members.

Capital news

THE LONDON Tourist Board is "extremely cheered" by figures showing an increase of 20 per cent in visitors from North America to the city last year. There was also a rise in the number of tourists from the Continent and Japan. Spending by overseas visitors increased by 8 per cent to slightly more than £4 billion.

Tom Webb, the LTB managing director, acknowledged, however, that the domestic market was a little less robust, with numbers increasing by just half a million from 6.5 million to 7 million. He added: "The recession is still biting rather deeply, but we are cautiously optimistic that 1993 will see a return to the bumper levels of 1990, particularly with the opening of Buckingham Palace."

Rough ride

THE IMPOSITION OF VAT on fares in the November Budget would mean fare increases of 36 per cent, up to £15.00 lost jobs and £1 billion lost from retail sales, the bus and coach industry says. Its trade association, the Bus and Coach Council has set out the case against VAT in a pre-Budget submission to the Treasury following hints that bus passengers might be subjected to VAT.

American pistes lure Britons

Skiers head across the Atlantic

America is expecting a growing number of British skiers this winter. Tour operators say that luxury skiing trips to America, with business class flights and top grade hotels, are selling well above expectations.

Aggressive marketing by American resorts, and doubts about snow in Europe, mean that up to 30,000 people will head for North American slopes this winter. Most will be dedicated skiers, and more than half will book through tour operators.

Crystal, Britain's second biggest ski operator, sent 4,000 skiers to America and 1,000 in Canada in 1992-3, double the number sent by Thomson, the overall market leader. Crystal says its bookings for the coming winter are 100 per cent up on the same time last year but Andy Perrin, the marketing manager, does



More British skiers are heading to resorts such as Aspen

not expect that to last. "We are, however, confident of 25 to 30 per cent growth overall. Fifty per cent would be spectacular and is not impossible."

According to Thomson, 75 per cent of all British skiers go to Colorado, with Breckenridge by far and away the number one choice. It is popu-

lar because it is large but quaint, with non-stop flights into Denver and a transfer time of under two hours. Breckenridge attracts about 6,000 British skiers, with Vail about 3,000 and Aspen an estimated 1,800.

The east coast resorts, primarily Killington and Stowe,

have a 20 per cent market share while serious off-piste skiers remain loyal to the "Wild West" favourites Jackson Hole and Crested Butte.

This year, the threat to Colorado comes from two would-be major players. One is California, Virgin Holidays, which specialises in California and New England, took 2,300 skiers to the regions in 1992-3, a figure it expects to increase to more than 3,000 this winter for Lake Tahoe and Mammoth.

The other boom area for British skiers is Canada, especially Whistler, near Vancouver. Alan Reed, managing director of Ski the American Dream, says: "The British can buy a two-week holiday in Chateau Whistler using non-stop schedule flights for under £1,000."

MINTY CLINCH

PRAGUE needs an inspection scheme for its hotels to prevent hundreds of unlicensed operators offering cut-price but potentially unsafe rooms to visitors, according to its main tourist agency.

New entrepreneurs, seeing an opportunity to make money from the 12 million foreigners who are flocking to the city each year, are accommodating tourists in their own homes. Many of these "hotels" are not designed for large numbers of visitors and have not been inspected for fire safety, says the Czech tourism organisation, Cedok.

Cedok's comments come as the number of tourists visiting Prague has fallen below forecast levels for the first time since 1989. Some have been discouraged by the high cost and lack of quality accommodation; others by the crowds thronging the winding streets and historic attractions.

Prices have soared, thanks to a new 23 per cent value added tax, though Cedok says

Prague's new beds of thorns



Prague's Charles Bridge

many hotels have not passed the full cost on to their customers. Greenpeace claims the city is the second most polluted in Europe after Ath-

ens. The Prague authorities have decided to tackle the problem by renovating palaces, churches, museums and historic buildings. Cedok is now attempting to direct visitors away from the more congested sites. It recommends the streets of the Mala Strana on the slopes leading to Prague Castle, and the Vysehrad, an ancient citadel by the Vitava River, where Prague was founded.

Prague has survived its turbulent history remarkably unscathed and is a testament to Europe's architectural history. Many of its streets are still the same as they were when Mozart visited.

Three nights at a city centre hotel in the peak season would cost £439 per person with Sovereign Cities (0293 599900). British Airways has 14 direct flights from Heathrow every week and Czechoslovak Airlines (071-255 1898) has three from Manchester and 12 from Heathrow.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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South Africa

SAAR

Salad days recalled

THE WALDORF-ASTORIA in New York, one of the world's best-known hotels, celebrates its hundredth anniversary next month. Marianne Curphey writes.

So many world leaders have stayed at the hotel that it has been said only Buckingham Palace has hosted more heads of state. Now it is to mark its centenary with a gala evening next Tuesday. It will be attended by Mrs Vincent Astor, widow of the grandson of the hotel's founders. The Rockefeller and Mr and Mrs Frank Sinatra have also lent their names to the event.

The original Waldorf Hotel, launched by the millionaire William Waldorf Astor in 1893, stood at Fifth Avenue near 34th Street. It closed in 1929 to make way for the

Empire State Building, but in October 1931 opened at its present Park Avenue address.

It was the Waldorf that introduced room service, and was the first to abolish the "ladies' entrance". Ginger Rogers appeared in the first big film to feature a hotel, in *Weekend at the Waldorf*. This year it was designated an official New York City landmark. The original Waldorf Hotel was built by the architect, Henry J. Hardenbergh as the embodiment of Astor's vision of a New York hotel which would appeal to his wealthy friends. In 1949, the Waldorf-Astoria was acquired by Conrad Hilton. After a restoration of many of the 1,410-room hotel's art deco treasures in 1988, the hotel is now the Hilton flagship.

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THE THAMES AND CHITERS

The Crown (0191) Aylesham, The Two Broomers Inn (099) Chippingfold, The White Horse Hotel (099) Herringford, Eastgate Hotel (0191) Oxford.

THE WEST COUNTRY

The Francis (0293) Bath, The Luttrell.

Arms (039) Dunster, The County (099) Taunton, The Manor Hotel (099) Yeovil.

EAST ANGLIA

The Brudenell (0293) Aldeburgh, The Suffolk (0199) Bury St Edmunds, The Crown (0236) Framlingham, The Green Swan Hotel (0293) Harlow, The Duke's Head (0193) King's Lynn, The Bull (0149) Long Melford, The Bell (0204) Thetford.

HEART OF ENGLAND WALES

The New England Hotel (0199) Boston, Hotel de la Reine (0199) Cheltenham, The Castle (0135) Cowey, The Speech House (0194) Forest of Dean, The Green Dragon (099) Hereford, The White Hart (0149) Lincoln, The New Bath Hotel (0149) Ludlow, The New Bath Hotel (0149) Ludlow, The Radnorshire Arms (0129) Presteigne, The Lion (0194) Shrewsbury, The Unicorn (0194) Stow-on-the-Wald, Royal Hop Pole (0194) Tewkesbury.

NORTH LAKE DISTRICT

The Beverley Arms (0194) Beverley, The Swan (0174) Grimsby, The Black Swan (0194) Huddersfield, The Crown Hotel (0194) Scarborough, The Old England (0194) Windermere.

SCOTLAND

The Marine (0149) North Berwick, The Tontine (0129) Peebles, The Royal George (0129) Perth, The Atholl Palace (0149) Pitlochry.

NEWS

Divorce reforms could cut costs

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is to unveil radical reforms of the divorce laws which are aimed at encouraging couples to go to mediation rather than to court. Should the reforms become law, before a divorce can be granted, couples would be required first to visit a "family advice centre" to sort out their problems without resort to law and costly legal aid. Page 1

Lamont challenge on Euro-money

Norman Lamont, writing in *The Times* on the anniversary of Black Wednesday, urged John Major to pull Britain out of future European Community talks on monetary union and to announce that Britain would not take part in a single currency. He also says he should have resigned on Black Wednesday. Pages 1, 16

Inflation surges

A rise from 1.4 per cent to 1.7 per cent in the inflation figure for August allied with disappointing retail sales figures led to a 39-point fall in the stock market index. Pages 1, 23

Tourist ordeal

Margaret Jagger, 34, girlfriend of Gary Colley, the British tourist murdered by gunmen in Florida, has described how two teenage robbers fired at point-blank range giving the couple no chance. Page 1

Albert overhaul

The Albert Hall, home of the Proms, is to have £20 million spent on it to enable it to host scientific conventions from around the world. Pages 1, 17

Patten threat

John Patten, the education secretary, has threatened to halt teacher training courses at universities that refused to send their students to independent schools. Page 2

Gatt protest

Sixty groups of French farmers disrupted traffic on roads around Paris yesterday in a protest highlighting demands that their interests be defended even at the cost of blocking a new agreement on world trade. Page 12

Cancer errors

Diagnosis errors in suspected cancer cases were more likely since reforms obliged testing centres to charge for their services and, as a result, doctors became more reluctant to seek second opinions, specialists claimed yesterday. Page 5

Bugs Bunny no part of EC culture

João de Deus Pinheiro, EC commissioner for culture, has taken exception to Daffy Duck, Bugs Bunny and Scooby Doo. Less than 48 hours before they appear in Britain on The Cartoon Network, a new satellite channel, Senhor Pinheiro says a new EC directive requires that 51 per cent of all programmes should be of European origin. Page 2

more reluctant to seek second opinions, specialists claimed yesterday. Page 5

Veterans upset

Veterans from HMS *Eagle*, an aircraft carrier sunk by a German U-boat in 1942, have condemned a decision to invite to a reunion two of the crew responsible for the attack. Page 3

Red-faced raiders

American Rangers broke into the home of the Mogadishu police chief and arrested him, believing him to be the fugitive warlord General Muhammad Farrah Aidid. Page 10

Tax protector

Michael Portillo, the chief secretary to the Treasury, told a church meeting in London that only the government could protect taxpayers from a barrage of demands from the public, media, Whitehall officials and pressure groups for more public spending. Page 8

Right turn?

The ultra-right British National Party, which broke away from the National Front ten years ago, is hoping to win its first council seat in the Millwall ward of Tower Hamlets in east London today. Page 6

Hong Kong warning

China has been told in a message from Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, that since Peking needed the colony so badly it would be ill advised to "mess it up" in 1997. Page 9



Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, meeting Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general in New York. They are flanked by PLO spokeswoman, Hanan Ashrawi, and Mahmoud Abbas, the official who signed the pact with Israel for the PLO. Page 11

BUSINESS

Mirror: A placing of 54.8 per cent of Mirror Group Newspapers shares with investing institutions looks likely. Page 23

Lloyds: Names were warned by Chatet, independent analysts, that they could face cash calls of up to £5 billion within 18 months to meet the cost of transferring liabilities into a new company. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 38.6 points to 2899.4 after higher-than-expected inflation, weak retail sales and company earnings fears. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 81.2 after a rise from \$1.5440 to \$1.5547 and a fall from DM2.4835 to DM2.4715. Page 26

Olympic Games: Simon Barnes talks to Bob Scott, the man behind Manchester's 2000 Games bid, and discovers that his campaigning has cost him a marriage and nine years of his life. Page 39

Football: A composed performance from Aston Villa saw them secure a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their UEFA Cup tie against Slovan Bratislava in the shadow of the Tetr mountains. Page 40

Golf: Ian Woosnam is going back to his "booby Woosie" image as he prepares to take part in the Lancome Trophy near Versailles — the last European tournament before the Ryder Cup. John Hopkins discovers why. Page 38

Unknown asset: Anita Keating seemed no more than a supporter and a washer of socks in 1991 when her husband, Paul, was made Australia's Labor prime minister. Joanna Fitman writes. Page 14

Difficult choices: Up to a thousand are dying of cancer unnecessarily every year because doctors decide they are "too old" to cope with surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy. Aileen Ballantyne reports. Page 15

Wish U were here: Nancy Mitford's letters, reviewed by Hugh Thomas, are as readable as any of her books. Pages 36, 37

What's art got to do with it? The cinema version of Tina Turner's life story is hardly the film to redefine the genre. The script of *What's Love Got To Do With It* is too worshipful and plodding. Page 33

Rewriting history: Most playwrights would consign something like *The Puryys Over* to a dusty corner of their cuttings file. But not Alan Bleasdale. He decided to revive his early creation at the Nottingham Playhouse. Page 34

Strike up the band: When one of America's greatest orchestras ran into trouble, they called on the respected German conductor Wolfgang Sawallisch who is proving to be the man for the job. Page 35

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Jack Russell, the wicket-keeper dropped by England for an extra batsman, is in the party to tour the West Indies next winter. Pages 42, 44



Jacqui Thorne, who was discharged from the RAF for becoming pregnant, has won £22,000 compensation from the defence ministry. Page 3



Harvey Smith, former international show jumper, appeared in court yesterday where he denied two charges of causing actual bodily harm. Page 3

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Is diesel 'greener' than petrol?

Scientists are beginning to link diesel fumes and the increasing number of asthma sufferers, raising a question of whether the fuel is "greener" than petrol.

Getting to know your caller

New telephones will soon show the number of the person calling you before you answer. Will everyone welcome it?

Bigger is indeed better

American art in the 20th century: an exhibition so sweeping it needed two separate London galleries to house it.

American film director Frank Perry turns the camera on himself to record with optimism and humour the story of his fight against cancer. *Witness: On the Bridge* (C4, 9pm). Page 43

The open road

John Patten's speech to the Headmasters' Conference yesterday was a missed opportunity to recapture the initiative after a disastrous year in his political life. He can take comfort that Labour left the road open. Page 17

Back in power game

Change is coming so fast to the Middle East that militants and moderates alike are bemused. The rejectionists are gathering to plot sabotage, but the decisive factor is Syria. Page 17

Britain's bowl

The Albert Hall is to announce a £20 million development plan. London's temple of mass middle-brow entertainment, its latest metamorphosis will again confirm its establishment as popular national village hall, landmark and moving question mark. Page 17

NORMAN LAMONT

Talk of accelerating monetary union is just pious, unrealistic Euro-vision. It really is time that the prime minister stated categorically that Britain will not be participating in the third stage of monetary union. Page 16

WILLIAM REES-MOOG

Many American families have re-emigrated back to Britain. I would not dissuade you from coming here on practical grounds. You could earn as much; pay less tax; your children would probably be better educated; you would run less risk of being murdered. Page 16

Shadow heritage secretary Ann Cwyd fears monopolistic control of television that will kill off local broadcasting. Page 17

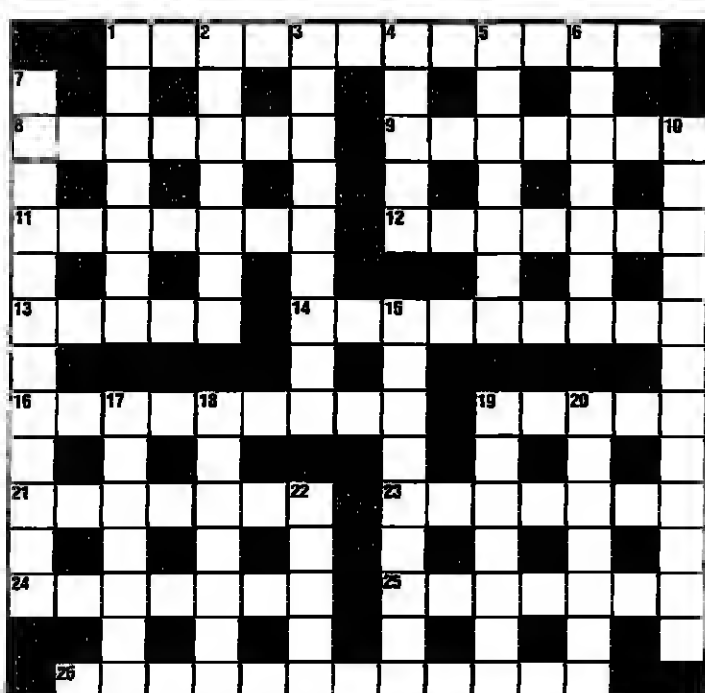
The essential requirement for peace is to replace the long-entrenched rhetoric and psychology of demonisation with a new vocabulary. Israel's leaders have already made a start. The PLO has not.

The New York Times

Extension of self-determination to Palestinians under Israeli rule cannot fail to stir similar aspirations by Palestinians in Jordan.

The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,337



ACROSS

- 1 Fiddlers on the stage with mother fixations (5,7).
- 8 Up with rent, putting back capital (3,4).
- 9 An important contributor to paper in Spain (7).
- 11 Filly you are reported to want for this distance (7).
- 12 Girl workers put on side (7).
- 13 Drunken nuisance showing listlessness (5).
- 14 With less on, accept nurse as hotel worker (9).
- 16 Sort of shield familiar to Australian cricketers (9).
- 19 Result in loss of a rib (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,336

ASSYRIAN JUNKET
F K U C H N E R
F L Y O F T H E H A N D L E
R F O R R G A
Y C A L I E U
M E O I R E
S E N I E C
T O N I G H T B E N C H E R
O E A A R E O E
D O M I N E V A S I
O R M A I N R I P T I E N T

DOWN

- 21 Snow hats that are never removed (3,4).
- 23 Band perhaps able to recover its original form (7).
- 24 A health-giving kitchen device? (7).
- 25 Start to rein in, stop and dismount (5,3,4).
- 26 Two for potting are discoloured (5,3,4).
- 1 In a flap it helps to keep a balanced side (7).
- 2 Run a small fiddle in Italian food (7).
- 3 Given a lab, can be controlled (9).
- 4 Flower for a dainty daughter (5).
- 5 I've had it — it's dead! (7).
- 6 Fish farming in bays (7).
- 7 Pompous fellow in a padded garment (7,5).
- 10 Neat cross on grave, perhaps, in a manner of speaking (6,6).
- 15 Epithet for match-stick men? (3,6).
- 17 Watch the shot — it's socked (7).
- 18 Father has a new twitch when over-excited (7).
- 19 Sail along a length of the sea-shore (7).
- 20 To gorge at tea is messy (7).
- 22 Ayr is spreading into the country (5).

Concise Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon, Dorset & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Oxfordshire	705
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	706
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire & Humberside	712
Yorkshire & Cleveland	713
Greater Manchester	714
North Yorkshire	715
West Yorkshire & Leeds	716
North East England	717
North West England	718
Merseyside & Lancashire	719
South East England	720
South West England	721
East of England	722
London & Essex	723
Essex & Suffolk	724
Gloucestershire & Wiltshire	725
Wiltshire & Dorset	726
Devon & Cornwall	727
Wiltshire & Gloucestershire	728
Gloucestershire & Somerset	729
Somerset & Devon	730
Devon & Cornwall	731
Cornwall & Devon	732
Devon & Cornwall	733
Cornwall & Devon	734
Devon & Cornwall	735
Cornwall & Devon	736
Devon & Cornwall	737
Cornwall & Devon	738
Devon & Cornwall	739
Cornwall & Devon	740

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M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	734
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National traffic and roadworks	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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WEATHER

Eastern England and south-east Scotland cloudy, with rain becoming more showery. The rest of England and Wales will begin mainly dry, with mist patches clearing; showers will develop by lunchtime. Northern Ireland and the rest of Scotland bright with showers. Winds mainly moderate north to northwesterly, but fresh down the east coast. Outlook: bright spells and showers on Friday. Rain spreading from the South West on Saturday.

Area	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
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Area	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Greater London	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Greater Manchester	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
West Midlands	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
East Midlands	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
North East	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
North West	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Yorkshire	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Devon	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Cornwall	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wales	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Scotland	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Northern Ireland	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

WEATHER

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Greater Manchester	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
West Midlands	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
East Midlands	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
North East	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
North West	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Yorkshire	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Devon	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Cornwall	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wales	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Scotland	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Northern Ireland	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

WEATHER

Eastern England and south-east Scotland cloudy, with rain becoming more showery. The rest of England and Wales will begin mainly dry, with mist patches clearing; showers will develop by lunchtime. Northern Ireland and the rest of Scotland bright with showers. Winds mainly moderate north to northwesterly, but fresh down the east coast. Outlook: bright spells and showers on Friday. Rain spreading from the South West on Saturday.

Area	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
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Area	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Greater London	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Greater Manchester	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
West Midlands	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
East Midlands	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
North East	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
North West	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Yorkshire	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Devon	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Cornwall	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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Devon	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Cornwall	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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Area	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
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LOW

992

1016

1000

1008

60°N

40°N

20°N

60°W

40°W

20°W

Information supplied by the U.S. Navy



ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

How John Major destroyed the ERM



ARTS 33-35

Tina Turner's life is an actor's tour de force



SPORT 38-44

Gower left out in the cold for West Indies tour

VACANCIES IN SCIENCE COURSES
Page 32

THE TIMES

2

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1993

Names warned they could face £5bn cash calls

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S names could face cash calls of up to £5 billion within the next 18 months to meet the cost of transferring their old year liabilities into a new company being set up under the Lloyd's of London business plan.

The warning by Chatet, the independent Lloyd's analyst, is the first indication of names' liabilities in respect of policies relating to 1985 and prior years. Under the business plan, names will be required to put money into Newco, the company expected to be established in 1995, in order to free themselves of the

policies' debts. John Rew, Chatet co-founder, said: "We believe that such a demand on current names is unfeasible."

Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, said yesterday: "We have started the process of establishing the level of reserves Newco needs in order to give names an actual, not a speculative, figure of the price they may need to pay to be shot of their liabilities. If they need to make payments we will match that source of revenue with the crystallisation of claims and ask names to pay the money in instalments."

Chatet also highlighted the extra future financial pressure on names because they

still face demands for £1.25 billion of the market's 1990 record loss of £2.915 billion. The problem is exacerbated by Chatet's forecasts of two more years of losses. Based on underwriters' forecasts, the analyst expects losses of more than £1 billion for the 1991 underwriting year and, contrary to other forecasts, a further loss of up to £500 million for 1992. The losses will be due to deterioration of old year accounts. The benefit of the turn in the insurance cycle is not expected to feed through to names in the form of profits until the 1993 underwriting year's result is reported in 1996.

Chatet also said that Lloyd's had

problems in passing the trade department's solvency test this year, an assertion Lloyd's denies. Chatet said £1.2 billion had to be earmarked to cover names' 1991 losses, which "is greater than the £1.47 billion in the central fund at the end of 1992, and although £220 million has been subsequently recouped by Lloyd's it does not augur well for next year."

The findings of a Lloyd's investigation into a loss-making Gooda Walker syndicate severely criticises Lloyd's and the syndicate's underwriter. The loss review report into personal stop-loss syndicate 387, which has lost more than £55 million, has been sent to names. The

syndicate had particularly high levels of exposure to stop-loss claims due to low levels of reinsurance. In the report, Keiran Poyner, the investigator, states: "Lloyd's should have taken regulatory measures sooner to prevent syndicates accepting a concentration of risk on this scale." He also criticises Derek Walker, the syndicate underwriter, saying one of the principal circumstances giving rise to the losses was an "underwriting approach to writing PSL business which was severely flawed reflecting a lack of understanding by Mr Walker of the complexities and risks of writing PSL business."

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS
TODAY

FLYING



Stockbrokers expect a rapid recovery in profits at British Aerospace after a return to the black
Page 25, Tempus 27

INSIDERS

Try as it might to pin down insider traders, Stock Exchange efforts are hampered by legislation
Page 24

HOPEFUL



Short-term prospects look bleak, but Lasso has hopes for the longer term because of new developments
Page 26

THE FOUND

US \$... 1.5547 (+0.0107)
German mark... 2.4715 (+0.0120)
Exchange Index... 81.2 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100... 2998.4 (-38.8)
Dow Jones... 3595.04 (+20.12)
Nikkei Ave... Closed

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base... 6%
3-month Interbank... 5 1/2%
US Federal Funds... 3 1/4%
3-month Treas Bill... 2.97-2.98%
Long Bond... 6.05%

CURRENCIES

New York: London... 1.5515
C\$... 1.5285
S\$... 1.3883
S\$... 5.5570
Yen... 108.25
SDR... 1.0919
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (9):
AM 345.25 PM 348.00
Close... 347.30-347.50
New York:
Comex... 347.75-348.25

RETAIL PRICES

RPI... 141.3 August (1.7%)
* Denotes midday trading price

Inflation rise puts damper on retail sales

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

HEADLINE British inflation rose in August for the second month in a row as battered retailers tried to improve their margins, but their reward was a discouraging month of sales on the high street as consumers balked at paying higher prices.

The retail price index rose 0.4 per cent in the month, taking the annual headline inflation rate to 1.7 per cent from 1.4 per cent in July. The underlying "inflation" rate, which excludes mortgage interest payments and is targeted by the government, increased to an annual rate of 3.1 per cent from 2.9 per cent, according to the Central Statistical Office.

Meanwhile, retail sales rose only 0.1 per cent in August, having fallen 0.3 per cent in July. Sales last month were up 3.3 per cent on August last year, a less impressive performance than in July when sales were up 4.2 per cent on the same period in 1992.

Economists and the Retail Consortium argued that the rise in inflation in August and the disappointing performance on the high street in the same month were closely related and provided proof that British consumers were prepared to spend but were extremely price-sensitive.

If this interpretation is correct, retailers are likely to cut prices again to attract customers, suggesting August's rise in retail price inflation is not the start of a sharply rising upward trend.

Hugh Clark, trading policy director at the consortium, said the government "should note the volatility of retail sales, the fragile nature of consumers' confidence and their reluctance to spend on non-essentials. Retailers are expressing great concern

Prices have risen and sales slackened, so shopkeepers are likely to discount again to bring back customers. Retailers are worried by fragile confidence and tax rises

about the much-publicised prospect of tax increase proposals in the autumn Budget."

Ian Shepherdson, of Midland Global Markets, believes there is a strong correlation between price rises and consumer spending and that yesterday's inflation and sales figures taken together are a strong argument for lower, not higher, interest rates.

He noted that 0.1 percentage point of the 0.3 of a point rise in the annual headline inflation rate was due entirely to sharp price rises in clothing and footwear. Prices in this category have risen 4.2 per cent since June when retailers cut prices to create demand in the summer sales.

He noted that, in June, when prices were cut back, clothing and footwear sales rose 8.6 per cent in a single month. In July and August,

when prices were raised as retailers reacted over-confidence to June's burst of demand, clothing and footwear sales slumped again.

The Retail Consortium's research confirms this story. Clothing sales, having been ahead of last year's levels in July, were lower in August than a year ago. Footwear, too, was down on last August.

The one retail area that appears on a firm upward trend is household goods, reflecting steady if unspectacular growth in the number of transactions recorded in the housing market. Household goods sales have risen for eight months running, up 8.5 per cent since December, and have accounted for about half the total growth of retail sales. Evidence of the key role recovery in the housing market has to play in the overall upturn.

CBI seeks pay bill clamp

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of the Confederation of British Industry yesterday urged private sector business to match the government's new public sector pay restraint by ensuring that productivity increases more than pay.

The move by the CBI - which was highly influential in shaping the new public sector pay policy - is as close as employers are likely to get in trying to replicate across the private sector the likely impact of the government's restraint.

Arguing that the private sector's pay bill had not grown this year, the CBI said, after its monthly council meeting

yesterday, that this needed to be maintained. A pay bill freeze is central to the government's new pay strategy in the public sector.

Noting the first fall this year for 30 years in UK unit labour costs, Sir Michael Angus, CBI president, said: "Performance must be kept ahead of pay. This should not be impossible. Inflationary pressures remain weak. Employee expectations are realistic."

Sir Michael said that the government's tight control of its pay bill would influence expectations in the private sector. The CBI believes that this year's 1.5 per cent public

sector pay limit shaved about 1 percentage point off private sector settlements, which it says are running at 2.9 per cent in services and 2.3 per cent in manufacturing.

Howard Davies, the CBI director-general, said that the private sector had scope to increase its pay bill, but only if unit labour costs kept falling.

In the 12 months to December, boardroom pay increased by 6.4 per cent. Pay for all employees rose by 6.1 per cent.

Missed deadline, page 24
Tempus, page 27
ERM poker game, page 27



John Allwood, finance chief, left, and David Montgomery revealed higher profits

Mirror placing imminent

BY PATRICIA TEIAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A £30 million placing of Mirror Group Newspapers' shares with institutions seems likely to begin with a book-building exercise next week. The administrator of the Maxwell Private Companies, who controls a 54.8 per cent stake on behalf of four banks, is ironing out details.

Cazenove, the City stockbroker firm, has been asked to coordinate the book-building exercise on behalf of John Talbot, the administrator.

David Montgomery, MGN chief executive, announced a first-half recovery in pre-tax profit to £69.9 million (£15.3 million). The figure includes a £36.1 million exceptional credit.

MGN paved the way to the share sale with news that it had renegotiated debt facilities with its seven banks, extending repayment dates by 18 months, to the end of December, 1995. Mr Montgomery said the relaxation of the terms would enable MGN to begin paying modest dividends from next year.

The shares rose 8p, to 186p, on expectations that the 210 million shares would be sold for at least 160p each.

Tempus, page 27

Open minds could bring open skies

This morning, leaders of European airlines will gather in Brussels to discuss what should be done to help their industry. Last year, it registered net losses of about £500 million, about a fifth of the industry's worldwide loss, despite reasonably healthy profits from British Airways.

The experts do not have to look far for one solution. In Paris yesterday, Air France, the European Community's biggest state airline, unveiled a cost-cutting plan described by Bernard Bosson, France's transport minister, as its last chance. Under the plan, EC rules, state aid was supposed to have been phased out last year. As Sir Michael Bishop, British Midland's forthright chairman, noted Midland's forthright chairman, noted

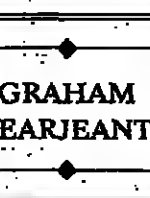
on his way to the airport: "It is no coincidence that the airlines which face the greatest difficulties and have responded least effectively to new competition are those with their principal shareholders as majority or principal shareholders."

Among the crisis measures planned by Bernard Attali, Air France's chairman, are to end unprofitable routes, contract work out, boost ground staff

productivity, trim aircraft costs and integrate operations better. If that sounds familiar, it is because British Airways was doing these things more than a decade ago on the way to privatisation. Air France aims to break even in 1995 on route in the private sector. We shall see.

The Brussels hearings, like others last week, aim to advise a committee set up by the European Commission to analyse the industry's ills and suggest possible cures by the end of the year. Like any such EC initiative, as Kenneth Clarke argued on Tuesday, it can go two ways: towards deregulation or protection.

The signs are not entirely happy. The French government, which helped delay an open EC aviation market until 1997, was one of the EC committee's most enthusiastic proponents, seeing it as a counterweight to President Clinton's equivalent committee, which is raising the cause of protection and making life as hard as possible for would-be European entrants into the American market.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

because of protectionism, to an ultra free market - which leads you only to the law of the jungle."

Were it not for the Commission's tendencies, it would make sense for it to take over Europe's international negotiations. One of the curses of this multinational business is the Chicago Convention, dating back to 1948, under which routes and landing rights are haggled over in bilateral national government negotiations.

At this moment, both Germany and Britain are stuck in such negotiations with the US. Indeed, the imbalance caused by the convention, due to America having a uniquely vast internal market, constantly bedevils such deals and encourages other countries to maintain state restrictions in self defence. That blights the industry far beyond the Atlantic and Pacific routes and keeps

flag carriers as pampered pets of national governments. Fear of America's airlines and exported over-capacity is shared by Japan and other Asian countries. Singapore Airlines has also called for the Chicago convention to be rewritten so that regional "open skies" blocs can be formed and negotiate with each other for mutual access - although there is always a danger of regional protection if the talks take on the shadow of the endless Gatt round.

Competition need not inevitably bring chaos. The law in America's internal reforms was, perhaps, that entry was too cheap for newcomers. In Europe, as minnows such as British Midland know, there is an inbuilt monopoly element in airline slots on busy routes. One of the most painless ways to reform - and reduce rows over new runways - would be to convert the cartels of airport scheduling committees into marketable assets owned by the individual airlines. Instead of tut-tutting governments and regulators should encourage a trade in landing slots that would make the opportunity cost of routes both apparent and recoverable, help competition and yet guard against over-capacity.

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Spy system quick but courts slow to react to dirty dealing



Sir Andrew: action

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Stock Exchange is increasing its efforts to pin down cases of suspected insider dealing. However, an increase in successful prosecutions remains unlikely in the absence of fresh legislation.

Thanks to a new Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance (Imas) system, the 21-strong team of accountants, former policemen and regulators who comprise the Stock Exchange's Surveillance Department can pick up unusual trades within minutes. Imas, which was developed at a cost of £1 million to £2 million and which went live four months ago, pulls together various sources of electronic financial information. Imas has built-in triggers that react to

suspicious trades, and its arrival has facilitated detection of unusual transactions. Graphs depicting trades by different broker-dealers can be superimposed on details of price, size and volume, making it easier to highlight suspicious cases. As Imas takes in information, it monitors unusual activity and fires an alert to watching analysts, speeding the reaction process thirty-fold. Analysts can be tracking a suspicious trade within two minutes, rather than two hours.

Radical price changes and unusually large trades are two of the triggers. The Stock Exchange, chaired by Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, is working with University College London to fine-tune triggers, to reduce false alarms.

Under present legislation, prosecutions

for insider dealing must be pursued through the criminal courts. Often, the exchange can establish who the insider dealers are, but cannot prosecute successfully due to lack of evidence. The most it can do is to give the suspects "a hard time" or alert stockbroking firms to the actions of their employees. Many dealers have lost their jobs as a result of such tip-offs.

Regulators believe that the creation of a central enforcement agency, pulling together the resources of the Stock Exchange and other regulators, is the only way of clamping down effectively on insider dealing and market manipulation. Legislation permitting civil action would improve the chances of getting to grips with suspects.

At present, unless prosecutions are pur-

sued through the courts — typically taking up to four years — it is virtually impossible to take action against individuals, because of lack of evidence: regulators would virtually need to secure a signed confession.

Closer international co-operation is another area that the Stock Exchange is keen to explore. The idea is to link Imas with overseas exchanges to make it more difficult for rogue dealers to "work" the market. Information on French shares traded in London, for instance, could be relayed automatically to regulators in Paris.

Many suspicious trades originate from shell companies in offshore havens from Jersey to Panama, and locations grow increasingly exotic. Efforts to clamp down on offshore centres have been likened to a

bulging balloon: squeeze Jersey and Guernsey swells.

The role of the Surveillance Department, established in 1980 to focus on suspected insider dealing, has grown to cover all types of market manipulation. The team reacts to electronic alerts and acts on intelligence received from other regulators and exchanges, particularly in France and America.

The department defends its "no comment" policy on the grounds that the knowledge that share trades are being investigated could be used as a corporate tool by companies or their advisers. For now, it maintains its silence, and "making life unpleasant" for market rogues is about the worst it can threaten.

EC 'to miss deadline' on ERM bands

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community is highly unlikely to try to return to narrow bands in the exchange-rate mechanism on January 1, the self-imposed deadline decided after wider bands had to be implemented following the July currency crisis.

Dr André Szasz, executive director of the Dutch central bank, said at a conference in London yesterday, to mark the anniversary today of sterling's departure from the ERM, that the European Community would try to rebuild a more disciplined ERM at some stage, but strongly implied that there was no likelihood of a return to the old 2.25 per cent bands on January 1.

implied, would take a considerable time. He also hinted that, with so many countries failing to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria, it was unlikely the current timetable for the beginning of stage 3 would be adhered to.

His comments echoed those of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, on Tuesday night when he delivered the annual Swiss Bank lecture. Mr Clarke said: "I can't see it [the question of returning to narrow bands] getting high on the agenda. There is certainly no question of Britain joining in."

At the conference yesterday, Sir Alan Walters, who as chief adviser to the then prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, argued strongly against sterling joining the ERM, said: "Ho, ho, ho, I told you so."

He believed that European politicians would try to revive the ERM in something like its old form, perhaps by the middle of next year. He said: "It is currently in the state of a zombie: it is going to get up and walk again, not because of economics but because of politics."

The European Currency Crisis, from booksellers at £27.50, or from publishers Probus Europe, Sheraton House, Castle Park, Cambridge CB3 0AX; £29.50 inc P&P.

ERM poker game, page 27



John Westhead, left, Bowthorpe chief executive, and Tony Vice, chairman, and found the UK recovery very patchy

Currency helps Bowthorpe to £27m

BOWTHORPE, the electrical and electronics group chaired by Tony Vice, reported interim pre-tax profits up 20 per cent at £26.9 million, thanks partly to £3 million of currency gains (Martin Flanagan writes).

Growth of 18 per cent in the

UK and North America was offset by a drop of similar proportions in continental Europe, where recession still bites.

John Westhead, chief executive, said recovery in the UK, where operating profits rose from £4.8 million to £6.9

million, was proving "extraordinarily patchy", with dynamism in areas such as computers and cellular phones but flatness in construction.

The US had proved "stronger than many think", he added. Operating profits there jumped 45 per cent to

£9.2 million. Orders were currently 14 per cent up in America compared with last year, and 12 per cent in the UK. The interim dividend for the first six months of 1993 rises 5 per cent to 1.88p on earnings per share up 15 per cent to 9.05p.

US growth fails to provide boost for world trade

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

ECONOMIC recovery in America was the main motor of growth in world trade last year, but the 7.7 per cent rise in total value was well below the average for the previous five years, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) said.

The annual report of the Geneva organisation, which called for a quick conclusion of the Uruguay round agreement on freer international trade, said the volume of trade last year rose 5.5 per cent, representing a slight acceleration on 1991. It was, however, below the average of the previous five years.

America led the export growth league among the major trading economies, achieving 8.3 per cent higher exports last year, against 8.1 per cent growth for Japan and 7.8 per cent for the European Community. The fast-growing Asia region boosted exports by 8.2 per cent, benefiting from strong demand for high-tech manufactured goods.

China, whose fast-expanding economy sucked in some \$9.4 billion of foreign invest-

ment in the first half, a rise of 180 per cent on last year, saw its exports jump 14.2 per cent in 1992. In contrast, the emerging market economies of eastern Europe lifted exports only 0.5 per cent.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector financing arm of the World Bank, said in its annual report that the increasing vigour of private enterprise in the developing world meant demand for IFC finance and services "very considerably" exceeds its ability to supply.

After approving a record \$2.1 billion of financing, covering 185 projects in 54 countries, in the year to the end of June, the IFC expects to lift approvals to \$2.4 billion this year.

Sir William Rytie, the outgoing IFC vice-president, said the increasing demand, arising from the shift away from state economic management, means that the IFC would in future have to be more selective in its choice of projects. He noted a substantial increase in demand for infrastructure financing, traditionally been the domain of governments.

Increasing costs keep Savoy hotels in red

THE Savoy Hotel group, which made the first loss in its 104-year history last year, is still in the red. Giles Shepard, managing director of the group, which includes the Savoy, Claridge's, the Berkeley and the Connaught, said the fall in the pound's value had failed to increase the number of foreign guests. The group made a pre-tax loss of £1.75 million for the six months to June 30, virtually the same as the previous year. Turnover rose by 3 per cent, to £37.8 million, against £36.7 million, but the bottom line was hit by higher sales and marketing costs.

While many luxury hotels have been offering discounts of up to half to boost occupancy, Mr Shepard said the Savoy group had tried to add services rather than cut room rates. "If you cut prices for too long, it is very hard to get them back up again," he said. Trading since the end of the first half has been markedly better than last year, the group said.

Triumph for Devro

DEVRO International, the sausage skin maker whose flotation last June was five times oversubscribed, announced that in the six months to end-June it pushed up pro forma pre-tax profits 32 per cent to £12.1 million on sales of £46.3 million. Pro forma earnings per share rose to 6.4p (4.8p). These figures have been calculated on the basis that the post-flotation capital structure had been in place for both periods. Shares rose 4p to 230p, compared with a 170p flotation price.

Calor Group ahead 5%

CALOR Group, distributor of liquefied petroleum gas, reports first-half 1993 pre-tax profits of £27.6 million, up almost 5 per cent on the comparable figure for 1992. In the first half last year, Calor charged £14.8 million of restructuring costs against profits, to leave 1992 interim pre-tax profits at £15.5 million. Turnover was £152.8 million (£164.5 million). Group cash balances remained strong at £25 million, the group said. The dividend is unchanged at 6p.

Bernard Matthews rise

PRE-TAX profits at Bernard Matthews, the meat processing group, rose from £2.1 million to £4.6 million for the six months to July 18. Turnover was up from £65.7 million to £88.9 million because of strong sales of new branded added-value products, such as cooked meats, and a first time contribution from Sarvari-Baronipari, the recently acquired Hungarian poultry company. The interim dividend improves from 1p to 1.1p, a rise of 10 per cent.

SR Gent improves

SR Gent, the Yorkshire clothing manufacturer that supplies Marks and Spencer, increased overseas sourcing of garments to 40 per cent of total sales in the year to end-June. In addition, it continued to benefit from a focus on higher-margin products. Pre-tax profits rose to £2.5 million (£2.3 million), with shareholders getting a total dividend of 2.10p (2p) courtesy of a 1.35p final payment. Earnings per share rose to 3.2p (2.4p), and Gent said order books were strong.

Bredero back in black

BREDERO Properties has moved modestly back into the black with pre-tax profits of £11,000 (£4.4 million loss) for the six months to end-June. Under the terms of its bank refinancing agreements, and in the absence of distributable reserves, the board is passing the dividend. The results for Bredero Centre West Ltd, which is undertaking the Phase 1 Centre West development in Hammersmith, west London, are excluded as a non-consolidated subsidiary.

Air France cuts jobs

AIR France, the state-controlled carrier earmarked for privatisation, plans to dispose of its 57 per cent stake in the Meridien hotel chain, its duty-free Saresco shops and part of Servair, its in-flight meal company. It is also to cut 30 routes and shed 4,000 jobs by the end of 1994. The airline aims to make savings of Fr5.1 billion a year by 1995. In the first half of this year, the net loss more than doubled to Fr3.8 billion, but the airline says it expects to break even in 1995.

Dairy Farm grows

DAIRY Farm, the Hong Kong food group that owns 29 per cent of Britain's Kwik Save supermarket chain, lifted pre-tax profits from US\$82.3 million to \$91.6 million in the six months to June 30. Turnover was up from \$2.3 billion to \$2.4 billion. The group said the sales rise was depressed by currency movements and by the transfer of most of its manufacturing operations to a joint venture with Nestlé. The interim dividend is up from 1.48 cents to 1.55 cents.

Cable will raise Scottish coal burn

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF



Preston: new route

THE proposed £175 million undersea electrical connector between Scotland and Northern Ireland will increase the coal burn at Scottish Power's stations by 600,000 tonnes a year, Allan Richardson, the company's transmission division director, said yesterday.

But the new demand for coal will bring no relief to the 31 English pits facing closure or contraction as it will be met almost wholly from Ayrshire open-cast mines.

Scottish Power, where Ian Preston is chief executive, and the newly privatised NIE Electricity yesterday announced a proposed new route for the interconnector 35 per cent of the cost will be met from EC funds with NIE contributing

the other 65 per cent. The route is designed to meet environmental concerns and, particularly, to allay the protests of Scottish fishermen.

The route that was first proposed had the Scottish landfall at Bannan Head, in Ayrshire, but the seabed cable trench would have cut through valuable prawn and herring spawning grounds. The two companies now propose the Scottish landfall should be some six miles further south at Currairie Port.

The revised proposals are now to go into the planning process following public consultation, with the interconnector due to be commissioned in 1997. It will be wholly owned by NIE which

will contract to purchase Scottish-generated power and will give the province the security of being connected to a larger and more stable grid.

The link will be switchable, however, with Ulster's generating capacity also able to meet demand from Scotland should circumstances require it.

The need to raise its 65 per cent funding for the interconnector is certain to increase both industrial and domestic power costs in Northern Ireland, already criticised by the CBI and some of the heaviest industrial consumers in the province as being some 20 per cent above what their mainland competitors have to bear.

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Statement knocks Allied Lyons

By OUR CITY STAFF

A RESTRAINED trading statement from Tony Hales, chief executive of Allied-Lyons, sent analysts rushing to downgrade their profit forecasts for the brewing to drinks group.

Mr Hales said performance in the first half, which officially ends on Saturday, had been "mixed" but the group expected to report "modest growth" in earnings per share. Analysts did not like what they heard and immediately cut pre-tax profit forecasts for the full year from more than £700 million to between £680 million and £690 million.

The picture is particularly bleak in the British beer market; weak volumes and intense competition have continued to squeeze margins. Analysts had been hoping that brewing margins, which fell from 7 to 6 per cent last year, might start to rise again in the current year. However, Mr Hales said profits from brewing would be "below our initial expectations".

Allied's pub retailing arm is also facing difficult conditions, with recovery still patchy, and further pressures from reduced pub numbers and indifferent weather. Nevertheless, the group expects profits to be ahead of last year's.

Mr Hales said Hiram Walker, Allied's wine and spirits division, which accounts for about 55 per cent of group trading profit, would be "modestly ahead" in the first half, despite continuing recession in continental Europe and slow recovery in America. The group's brands, which include Ballantine's Scotch whisky, Beefeater gin and Courvoisier cognac, fared better in Britain and emerging markets in Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Far East.

Hiram Walker has targeted these developing markets as its source of future growth and the key to achieving its goal of 20 per cent operating margins by the end of the century.

Allied's share price fell 1p to 575p.

Bae shows first signs of recovery with £20m profit

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Aerospace, Britain's biggest manufacturing company, has begun to deliver the first fruits of its traumatic two-year battle for recovery. The group achieved a £20 million profit before tax during the half year to end-June, compared with a £129 million loss during the same six months last year.

Although only the defence business and Ballast Nedam, the Dutch contracting arm, were in the black, BAE says Rover, the car subsidiary, will return to profit this year and losses from commercial aircraft manufacture have been sharply reduced.

Despite a higher-than-expected first half interest bill, brokers are now predicting a rapid and powerful recovery in profits as restructuring takes effect. Pete Deighton, an analyst at Smith New Court, said: "I think we have got to a significant turning point."

The breakthrough was finally achieved almost two years after mounting losses triggered a £432 million rights issue and a boardroom shake-up. John Cahill, the new broom chairman, and Richard Laphorne, the finance director, seem to have secured the financial health of the defence business, whose products range from Tornado fighters to small arms and ammunition, by winning overseas orders to compensate for the worst of the slump in demand from the defence ministry.

Aided by a 9.6 per cent surge in group first half sales, to £5.07 billion, a long-overdue programme of rationalisation and site closures appears to be delivering cost savings. Even in civil aircraft, blighted by a global downturn in demand, BAE has managed to trim its losses. The core civil business, manufacturing 140 pairs of wings a year for the pan-European Airbus Industrie consortium, in which BAE is a partner, should return to profit by the year end.

A final round of disposals and joint ventures is still in the



John Cahill, chairman, intends that BAE will increasingly be run to cash objectives while the group is in recovery

pipeline. These include completion of the regional jet venture with Taiwan Aerospace, a £180 million merger of Ballast Nedam with Boskalis, a Dutch civil engineer, and merger of BAE's Dynamics business with Matra of France to create a £1 billion a year missiles group.

Completion of the Taiwan deal would release provisions needed urgently to resolve the future of BAE's turbo-prop regional aircraft business, which is still losing £10 million a month.

However, Dick Evans, BAE's chief executive, said talks are progressing with several potential suitors with a view to a partnership that

would help reduce excess capacity around the world.

The most impressive recovery of all, however, is at Rover, the car company bought from the government five years ago. Although Rover recorded an operating loss of £19 million on sales approaching £2 billion in the first half, the company is on course to return to profit this year.

The cornerstone of the car business resurgence is the modernisation of the model range, completed with the launch of the Rover 600 last spring, and the great success of the profitable Land Rover Discovery four-wheel-drive vehicle. Rover was the only large producer to increase

European sales in the first half, up 5 per cent, in the face of a 20 per cent market fall.

With break-even in car production now reduced to 400,000 vehicles a year, output is set to reach 230,000 in the second half, after 206,000 during the first six months. That sets the stage for Rover, which will enjoy tax-free profit thanks to years of losses, to become a substantial contributor to group earnings.

Manpower cuts are a key ingredient of recovery. Employee numbers fell by 5,300 to 97,200 during the first half, contributing to a sharp increase in the cash outflow. However, gearing, at 40 per cent, should fall during the

second half as the company concentrates on husbanding cash.

Mr Cahill said: "Reduction of the interest charge is a priority and BAE increasingly will be run to cash objectives where there is a trade off between cash and profit whilst the group is in recovery." Interest charges were up by half to £91 million year on year as the company was obliged to meet fixed rate charges on its debts while experiencing falling income on its sizable short-term deposits.

The half-year dividend has been increased by 10 per cent to 3.3p.

Timesup, page 27

Extra £6m over Storehouse deal

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

STOREHOUSE, the BHS to Mothercare retail group, is to make an additional £6 million provision relating to the disposal of its Mothercare stores chain in America more than two years ago.

The provision, to be taken as an exceptional charge, will hit profits in the current year. Analysts had forecast pre-tax profits of about £65 million.

The 205-store Mothercare chain in America was sold in March 1991 to Bain Capital, a venture capital firm, for \$11 million, paid partly in cash and partly in loan notes, redeemable from the end of this year. Storehouse is thought to be concerned that the chain, now renamed Mother's Stores, will not meet the repayment schedule.

Current trading across the group remains ahead of last year, in spite of intense competition in the high street, according to Keith Edelman, Storehouse's new chief executive. Sales are up 5 per cent at BHS, although a fall in the performance of the in-store restaurants will reduce overall progress in the chain.

The group said that it was too early to comment on the

"One Up" discount format launched in non-prime BHS sites at the end of August. Margins at BHS have been maintained against a backdrop of negligible price inflation.

Mothercare has pushed sales up by 4 per cent, in spite of widespread price reductions to bring the stores in line with cheaper rivals, such as Adams. Margins are expected to be adversely affected in the short term, although some margin will be recouped through tighter management of the supply chain.

Although the group still claims to be on course for "a significant increase" in profits, as forecast by Ian Hay Davison, chairman, at its annual meeting in July, yesterday's statement suggests that overall sales growth is now expected to be slightly below the 5 per cent previously forecast.

Storehouse's share price slipped 7p to 222p at yesterday's close. Paul Morris, a retail analyst at Goldman Sachs, said that the fall was due to "the overall tone of the trading statement" rather than the provision.

ECC prepares the case for demerger

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ENGLISH China Clays is likely to present its case for the planned demerger of its construction materials division, in which capital totalling £300 million is employed, around Christmas, the group said yesterday.

Shares in ECC fell 24p to 410p, after the group announced that interim operating profits, stripped of last year's £4.5 million rationalisation charge and of the 1992 write-down of £11.2 million, had fallen from £56.7 million to £47.8 million.

The announced pre-tax profit for the half year to June 30 was £40.3 million, against £40.8 million, on turnover of £515.1 million (£479.4 million).

The interim dividend is held at 6.6p a share.

The group, which in the past three years has made two acquisitions in America costing \$650 million, and which earlier this year raised £113.9 million via a one-for-eight rights issue at 350p, says that trading conditions remain difficult in the industrial minerals markets.

However, conditions appear to be right for a gradual improvement in construction-related activities in the UK.

The group said that there have been no changes of note on its share register, and that the three largest shareholders in ECC continue to be institutions.

Polly Pocket and Mighty Max pull Bluebird higher

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

SHARES in Bluebird Toys surged 87p to 438p, after the USM-quoted toy designer, manufacturer and distributor announced a leap in first-half profits.

Despite a subdued UK market, the company managed to boost the pre-tax figure significantly, from £230,000 to £1.99 million in the six months to June 30.

Torquil Norman, chairman, said sales of the company's Polly Pocket miniature dolls continued to grow. The first six months of the year had also seen the successful launch of a Mighty Max doll.

While home sales of Bluebird's toys dipped slightly to £8.1 million, against £8.7 million last time, the Polly Pocket doll and Mighty Max contributed to a leap in overseas sales to £15.6 million, up from £8.68 million.

The depreciation of sterling against the US and Hong Kong dollars also helped the increase.

Mr Norman said the more sluggish UK picture was affected by big clearance sales in 1992, in which stocks were disposed of at a loss.

Earnings per share rose from 4.2p to 14.7p.

Mr Norman sounded an upbeat note on prospects. "We have made an excellent start to the year," he said, "and we look forward to continued growth in the second half, as well as a good result for 1993 as a whole."



Torquil Norman is confident of further growth

Rank opts for Florida expansion

By GEORGE SIVELL
ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Rank Organisation and MCA, part of Matsushita of Japan, have put on hold their search for a theme park site in Europe and have decided instead to spend between £2 billion and £3 billion expanding their theme park in Florida near the huge Disney attraction at Orlando.

The news has come as Disney grapples with losses and financial problems at its Paris theme park and concern grows over the safety of overseas tourists in Florida after a spate of violent crime.

Florida has temporarily suspended tourist advertising until, in the words of one official, "the whole thing cools down". Rank said it that was not concerned by Florida's bad publicity of late and that it was taking a long-term view.

Rank said that the plans, for which Steven Spielberg is the creative consultant, still depended on local approval, conclusion of a detailed creative scheme, agreement on the development budget, and arrangements for financing.

Senior Rank directors gave a presentation yesterday in Orlando on plans to develop a further 600 acres of land that Universal Studios Florida, the Rank-MCA joint venture, owns.

The plans include a second theme park, a night-time entertainment centre, hotels, and conference centres. Construction is not expected to begin until 1995-6 at the earliest.

Co-op cashes in on its ethics

By SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT

EVEN high moral profiles need promoting. The Co-operative Bank, which hit the headlines last year with its ethical banking policy, spent 10 per cent more in the first six months of this year than in the same time last year, much of it in television and press advertising for its ethical stance.

Announcing half-year figures, Terry Thomas, managing director said: "The bank's ethical policy has been widely promoted... it highlights the bank's principles of high integrity and social responsibility and is clearly attractive to well-defined sections of the population. The ethical policy has heightened awareness of the bank and its considerable strengths. Hundreds of supportive letters have been received."

Refusing to offer financial services to

tobacco companies, offer loans to arms manufacturers or invest in companies experimenting with animals or using factory farming methods has not done the Co-op any harm. Pre-tax profits for the first half were £8.1 million, up 81 per cent. Operating income for the period was up 8 per cent to £119.4 million. This was partly because of the Co-op's other headline-grabbing move, the "free for life" gold card and Robert Owen card. Mr Thomas said both had showed solid growth.

Bad debt provision was down 14 per cent, because of reduced exposure to commercial lending and fewer bad debts from the personal banking side, particularly on cards.

Logically for an "ethical" bank, the Co-op has also announced its first ethical unit trust, aimed at trustees of charities and pension funds who want to support the environment and avoid tobacco manufacturers, animal exploitation and arms

sales to oppressive regimes. The trust will be managed by CIM Fund Managers, the Co-op's fund management arm. It will invest in the shares of a list of ethically acceptable UK companies compiled by the Ethical Investment Research Service (Eiris), the specialist research firm, using criteria chosen by the bank. The bank would not reveal which names were on the list but said the fund managers would have about 350 stocks to choose from. The list will be reviewed periodically and companies excluded from it will have a chance to make a case for review.

If this trust is successful, the bank may introduce an ethical trust for private investors using similar environmental and ethical criteria. Mr Thomas said: "It would be a logical step to introduce an ethical trust for retail investors. It depends how successful this trust is. This country is not as alert to ethical trends as others like the US, for example."

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ECONOMIC VIEW

Why John Major lost the costly ERM poker game

Britain's decision to link the pound to the mark at an unsustainable rate was a mistake that destroyed the ERM, Anatole Kaletsky argues

The anniversary of White Wednesday seems an appropriate time to say *mea culpa*. On the night of September 16, when other newspapers were describing the greatest economic catastrophe to befall Britain in peacetime, *The Times* argued that leaving the ERM would trigger an economic recovery without much inflation, and I was lucky enough to guess that base rates would be down to 7 per cent by Christmas.

That was the easy part. It was almost as easy to see the inevitability of Britain's expulsion from the very first day, when Britain entered the ERM on October 5, 1990. Much harder was to foresee exactly when, how and why Britain would be forced to devalue.

Right up to the general election, I remained convinced that sterling would be devalued. But after John Major had won the election, even I began to question my judgment. For a crucial few months, I became convinced that ERM membership might work.

The last sceptic climbing on to the bandwagon is a classic signal that the wagon is about to go off a cliff. Today, it is clear that the ERM was always doomed — and I must apologise for being taken in, however briefly, by the ERM miracle cure. Having done that, it is worth asking why the ERM failed.

Most commentators now believe that the ERM breakup was made inevitable by German reunification. I do not fully share this view. While high German interest rates added to the strains on the system, I think the mishandling of Britain's entry was an even more important factor. In the spring of 1990, six months before ERM entry, the pound fell to a low of DM2.71, as the markets correctly anticipated Britain's impending economic slump. If the pound had joined the system at about that level, instead of the parity of DM2.95 chosen by John Major, the subsequent disasters might never have happened.

A 6 per cent ERM band centred on DM2.70 would have stretched down to DM2.54, giving British exporters scope for even bigger competitive gains than the ones they achieved after White Wednesday. From 1990 until mid-1992, most European markets were booming. A competitive exchange rate, combined with the managerial and labour reforms introduced in the 1980s, would have offered British exporters the chance of a once in a lifetime bonanza. Surging exports would have done much to offset the depressing effects of high interest rates on domestic consumption and housing. The rapid export growth would have laid to rest the market's justified fears that the sterling-mark parity was too high and would eventually become unsustainable as Britain's trade deficit exploded. Mr Major's decision to link the



Norman Lamont, as Chancellor, under pressure on White Wednesday

pound to the mark at an unsustainable rate damaged not only Britain, but all of Europe. Without this mistake, the ERM might still be in business — and Britain and France might have been able to cut interest rates below the German level, without leaving the system. To say this may seem absurdly parochial. But I would argue that the inappropriate sterling-mark parity was the main catalyst for the market attacks on the ERM after the Danish referendum — and the main reason why the system was not credible enough to allow countries such as France and Britain to undercut German rates.

The lira and peseta were, admittedly, even more overvalued than sterling. But they were never important trading currencies, with highly liquid financial markets. Italy and Spain could well have been pressed into early and orderly realignments without destroying the

illusion of stability of the whole ERM. In the event, John Major's refusal to contemplate a realignment that Britain's economy clearly desperately needed, encouraged Italy and Spain to dig in their heels as well. Other countries such as Sweden, Finland and Norway were in turn drawn into pegging their currencies by the apparent commitment of all European governments to defend the pound, lira and peseta at overvalued levels.

What had been a perfectly feasible (though in my view misguided) attempt to discourage currency fluctuations in Europe, was turned into the world's most extravagant game of poker. As soon as one central bank had been called and found bluffing, the markets turned to the next most vulnerable player and raised the stakes. If

the only losers had been peripheral players such as the Finns and Italians, there might have been no problem for the whole system. But once the mighty Bank of England was caught bluffing, the game had got too good to stop. The biggest roller in the saloon, the French government, had to be put to the test.

I have believed for some time that, contrary to the market consensus, the franc was too high against the mark. However, the degree of overvaluation was only marginal. The franc-mark parity might well have proved sustainable, if the whole ERM had not been discredited by the fall of the pound. This comparison was not really rational, since the pound was grossly overvalued, while the franc was only slightly too high. But that kind of distinction was obviously a matter of opinion. Until the pound fell, the investors broadly trusted ERM governments (with the usual exception of Italy's) to make such judgments. But once the pound fell, the franc's level, too, had to be submitted to testing by the market.

Apart from the markets and the European governments, the other main player in the ERM poker game was the Bundesbank. At the Bundesbank, as much as in the markets, Britain's membership at an overvalued exchange rate undermined confidence in the whole ERM. From the day Britain joined, Bundesbankers believed that DM2.95 was an inappropriate exchange rate, for Britain and Germany alike. This concern contributed to Buba's general anxiety about being locked into an over-rigid exchange-rate system that was fundamentally unsound and contributed to German inflation.

The markets' success in overwhelming the pound a year ago today, also presumably revived the Bundesbank's hopes of shaking up the ERM and delaying the timetable for European monetary union, an ambition the Buba finally achieved on August 2 this year.

If this analysis is right, then the biggest mistake made in 1990 was not the decision to join the ERM, but the choice of the DM2.95 exchange rate. The Treasury argues that this was not a matter of choice. The pound simply entered at about the market rate on the day the announcement was made. But this story disguises more than it reveals. The reason the pound rose from about DM2.75 in May 1990, to DM2.95 on October 5, was that government sources deliberately leaked stories to the press about the Chancellor's decision to join the ERM at a high exchange rate. As the pound climbed through DM2.80 and DM2.90, ministers and officials continued to egg on the markets to bid up the exchange rate.

The reason they did this was Mr Major's fear of inflation. The then-Chancellor was concerned that monetary policy was still not tight enough to eradicate inflation and wanted an overvalued exchange rate to bear down on the economy, as if 15 per cent interest rates were not enough. In my view, it was that first decision to manipulate sterling upwards before joining the ERM that set the pattern for the disasters that followed. If I am right, Mr Major still owes an apology — not only to Britain but to the whole of Europe.

TEMPUS

Fairest of them all

MIRROR Group Newspapers' following in the City is growing stronger by the day. Those institutions that saw MGN as too risky for a punt last year keenly await the sale, soon to be announced, of the 54.8 per cent of its shares held on behalf of Maxwell private companies by their administrators.

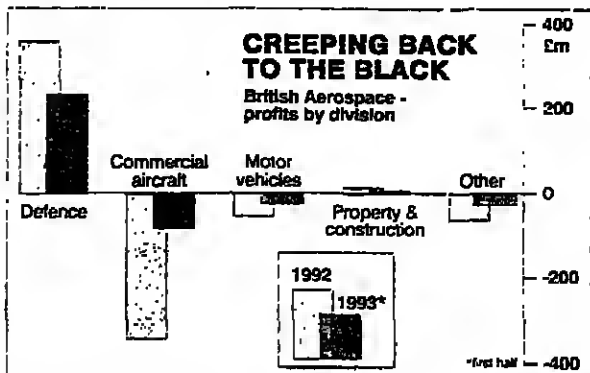
MGN's underlying performance goes some way to justifying such support. The tough stance of the new management in reducing costs is certainly welcome, with operating expenses down by £4 million to £180 million. There will be more savings when MGN moves to Canary Wharf next year. Borrowings have been cut by £72 million and MGN has persuaded its banks to relax its banking covenants in order to enable the company to resume paying dividends, however nominal, from next year. The group has, surprisingly, emerged unscathed from its main rival's summer price cuts, defying the odds to report a 76,000 increase in sales of the *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Record*. It is also claiming significant improvements in advertising revenue across its range of titles. It reported a 13 per cent increase in advertising volumes and a 6.5 per cent increase in advertising revenue in the first half.

Although the shares are not over-valued, the administrators should sell now, while interest is strong. MGN is in a declining market, while much of its cashflow is committed to reducing debts and filling the hole in the pension funds. That restricts its ability to diversify. When the recovery story is no longer hot news, investors may remember the long-term prospects.

Bae COMFORTING as it is to see Britain's largest manufacturer back in profit, British Aerospace's interim figures highlight how much work is still needed to allow profits from the core defence business to reach the bottom line. The most worrying hole in Bae's remaining activities is the regional turboprop business, which is still losing £120 million a year despite its move to a single site at Prestwick. Bae urgently needs to find a joint venture partner for the business or shut it entirely but the group cannot do anything until it signs the Avro regional jet deal with the Taiwanese. This should release provisions to take effective action.

At least Rover returned to profit, before a £22 million redundancy charge. But the motor industry is still highly

cyclical and one cannot see Rover retaining a wholly-owned subsidiary for ever. If Bae can do all this, and organise further property disposals and the managed exit it is planning from Ballast Nedam, it should have eliminated the remaining underperformers to allow profits from Al Yamamah II to come through from 1995.



Lasmo

MORE than any of the multinational energy companies, Lasmo is a hostage to the oil price. Joe Darby, the new chief executive, has worked hard to shore up the balance sheet in the past six months, cutting debt by more than £200 million with a combination of disposals, improved cash flow and a \$250 million American preference share issue. With gearing down to 70 per cent, and more than £100 million likely to come in from the sale of the group's 34 per cent stake in the Marikham field, finances look much more secure — even though capital spending will peak at £350 million next year.

Lasmo's key problem is the operating cost of its existing projects. Costs per barrel rose 11 per cent in the half year to £5.30, due to the fall in sterling, and will rise again in the second half. Lasmo is determined to keep costs below £5, but this hardly leaves a wide margin when Crude is less than £10.50 a barrel. Lasmo's profits will remain slim until newer, lower

cost fields such as Liverpool Bay come on stream, unless there is a sharp uplift in the oil price. Further ahead, the group's prospects look more promising, with production forecast to rise from the current 140,000 barrels a day to 220,000 in 1996. The combination of rising production and falling debts makes Lasmo look an interesting takeover target. British Gas may not be interested, but someone else might be.

ECC

ENGLISH China Clays illustrates the benefit of reading a company's small print, even after the introduction of FRS3. The main face of the interim report shows a modest £500,000 decline in pre-tax profits. Delve into note two and the chairman's statement and one finds that the 1992 figures were depressed by one-off restructuring and write-down costs of £15.7 million, while this year's numbers have benefited from a £6.6 million profit on housing land sales. Readjust the numbers and one finds that underlying trading profits have fallen more than 40 per

Equities

INFLATIONARY fears might have been the agent that knocked the FT-SE 100 index back under 3,000 after yesterday's rise in the retail prices index, but the ground was laid by recent cautious company statements and disappointing figures.

The setback should not be permanent. The RPI acceleration hardly amounts to a runaway price spiral and corporate profits are improving, albeit slowly. A few more rate cuts on the Continent, and the approach of the autumn Budget should cheer the market up after this bout of ill-humour.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Helping to insure subsidence risk

From Mr Arthur R. Mannors Sir, It is true (Business Letters, September 8) that insurance companies balk at the cost of paying for quality information to help them to underwrite the risk of subsidence, but I am pleased to say that many are now beginning to realise the true value of having accurate, high-quality information. The British Geological Survey, in conjunction with Geological Information Systems Ltd, has

developed a database of geological information (IGHASP) to help insurers to assess the risk of subsidence. Nationwide coverage is now complete. The system is being used by some syndicates at Lloyd's and is being installed in some major insurance companies. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR R. MANNORS Geological Information Systems, 18 London Street, EC3.

Top-rate tax trap

From Mr John Denza Sir, Mr Saxby greatly understates his case in suggesting that someone who wishes to maintain his capital should draw only the 2 or 3 per cent by which the rate of interest usually exceeds the rate of inflation. That is true only for those who subject to income tax. If you receive 6 per cent and the rate of inflation is 3½ per cent, then a basic rate taxpayer can

withdraw 1 per cent but a higher rate taxpayer only 0.1 per cent. For nearly 50 years, from 1939, it was impossible for a top rate taxpayer to get other than a negative return from money in an ordinary interest-bearing account. In all probability, it soon will be again. Yours faithfully, JOHN DENZA Stoy Hayward, Chartered Accountants, 13th Floor, York House, Empire Way, Wembley.

Negative viewpoint

From Mr Ashley Sweeney Sir, To say that Ferranti (September 14) is in a parlous financial state is somewhat inaccurate, having recently cut debts from £700 million to under £100 million, and, at the same time, having suffered 4½ years of continuous losses. It would be reasonable to assume that the balance sheet would not be in perfect shape. However, there are no black holes and the ghost from the disastrous ISC acquisition has disappeared. Such articles cannot help Ferranti's perception with customers and suppliers. One might be led to the conclusion that this article accentuates the negative. Yours faithfully,

ASHLEY SWEENEY (Kent Group Young Conservatives), Flat 9, Warwick Towers, 42 Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Milken to offer the inside story

FORMER junk bond king Michael Milken is to get the chance to tell the inside story of his rise and fall. Eight months out of prison after admitting six criminal share dealing violations, he will tell his tale in co-operation with Hyperion Press, part of the Walt Disney empire. Milken will combine dictating the book with his three years' community service at a Los Angeles organisation designed to keep youngsters off drugs. The work was part of his original sentence. While doing this, his own thoughts will be penned by William Novak, the ghost writer who helped Nancy Reagan hit back against critics in *My Turn* and Oliver North turn a phrase in *Under Fire*. Milken, whose salary in one year during the Eighties topped \$300 million, will donate the book's proceeds to charity. Hyperion hopes the tome will convey what it was like to be at the "white hot centre of revolution".

"It was a fabulous party," says Myers, whose mini-empire includes the Rock Island Diner at Piccadilly and the Cafe Rouge restaurant chain. "Everyone was making a lot of fuss of two obscure Australian twins in the corner." He braved the festivities until 2am before quietly making his departure, and coyly reserves judgment on the show itself. "I saw the original show when I actually had some hair," he adds. "My hair is not what it was."

The right spirit

A SHUFFLING of shoes was audible yesterday when Tony Hales, chief executive of Allied-Lyons, asked whether anyone among his audience of drinks analysts at the Waldorf Hotel was 40 years old. After an embarrassed silence, Ken Lawrence of Brown Brothers Harriman Investment Management, put up his hand — and was promptly rewarded with a bottle of Beefeater Gin. Beefeater, owned by Hiram

Walker, Allied-Lyons' spirits and wine division, has enjoyed a surge in sales since deciding to maintain its original strength of 40 per cent ABV. "It was better than the things you get at these things," says Lawrence, who recently celebrated the birth of his first son, Robert, and will need a few stiff drinks to get through the 4am nappy changes.

Back again

A FAMILIAR face has popped up at the Liverpool offices of Charterhouse Tilney, the stockbroking arm of the merchant banking group. Simon Willis, number two rated Exel insurance analyst, is back after a five-year absence. Willis, 35, left the firm in 1987 to join Wood Mackenzie in Edinburgh — six weeks before the stock market crash. He will be covering insurance brokers and BAT Industries.

Code of conduct

There can be few chairman as dedicated to the spirit of Cadbury, and what is expected of directors, as Sir David Plowman of Incheape. In the true spirit of *quis custodiet ipsos custodes*, Sir David recently charged non-executive director Peter Baring "specifically to take responsibility for monitoring my own performance and, if necessary, arranging my replacement", according to the annual report. After all, Sir David explains, who reports the chairman if he falls down drunk in Singapore? To date, he has been an exemplary chairman... or very discreet.

JON ASHWORTH



Hair yesterday

THE hype surrounding the West End launch of the musical *Hair* — cruelly dubbed *Wig* by one unimpressed critic — even engulfed Roger Myers, chairman of Pelican Group, who threw open the doors of the newly refurbished Pelican on St Martins Lane for the opening night party. He was spotted carousing with George Michael, Anita Dobson, Brian May and other stars — notably Boy George as disc jockey — and claims to have enjoyed the experience.

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ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE

FAX:
071 481 9313

DIRECTOR

£35,000 + benefits

Action for Blind People is a medium sized charity based in London providing a wide and developing range of services to visually impaired people from all over the UK. These services currently include advice; employment; training, particularly in new technology; grants in aid; flats, residential accommodation and hotels.

Action for Blind People seeks a new Director to advise and support its Council in policy planning and performance monitoring and to lead, motivate and integrate staff in achieving its aims. Key qualities will be: proven general management capability; strong communication skills; sensitivity and appreciation of the issues facing people with disabilities; and the ability to orchestrate internal and external resources and networks to widen the scope of Action for Blind People's influence and effectiveness.

For further information please contact:



action for blind people

John Smith,
Succession Planning Associates,
26 Chapter Street,
London SW1P 4ND

Tel: 071 630-8080 Fax: 071 834-9643

SPA
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ASSOCIATES

JUST QUALIFIED?

Expanding London-based stockbroking and finance group, profitable, well-backed and innovative, seeks qualified C.A.

An excellent opportunity to acquire broad experience of financial control in an entrepreneurial company. Reporting to the Admin Director, the role includes financial returns and management accounting. PC literacy a must. Fin Services experience on advantage.

Competitive salary plus bonus

Please write with CV to
Box No 4035
c/o The Times Newspapers,
1 Virginia St,
London E1 9DD.

BRITISH ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN/MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

A registered charity seeks a part of fully qualified accountant (preferably AAT level or higher) with at least 3 years practical experience to fill this unique position. The post has arisen within a small secretariat which provides full administration for a professional association, including the organisation of conferences and educational courses for orthopaedic surgeons. Approximately 50% of this post involves membership administration concerning the maintenance and development of an existing membership database, preparation of papers for membership meetings and the annual production of an informative membership handbook. The remaining 50% will involve assisting the Accounts Manager with various accounting functions including the preparation of year-end accounts and the production of various income and expenditure and ad hoc accounting reports. Familiarity with Excel used to produce cash flows and other statistical information would be an advantage. The successful applicant will be computer literate and have the ability to accurately reconcile information on various databases.

Salary will be in the region of £15,500-£16,000 per annum, 20 working days leave a year, interest-free loan, private health scheme and contributory pension scheme. Central London location.

Please apply with current curriculum vitae to the Senior Administrator, British Orthopaedic Association, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PN.

AUDITORS

Throughout UK

We have been retained by our client to recruit experienced auditors on long and short term contracts, to be based at various locations throughout the UK.

You will be responsible for a broad range of varied operational reviews and audit assignments, including income and expenditure, VAT and bank reconciliations.

Candidates need not necessarily be qualified, however they must demonstrate experience within an audit environment, either Internal or External.

The locations we are actively endeavouring to resource candidates for are:

- Cambridgeshire
- Kent
- London
- Sussex

For further information please contact Martin Kenny on 0444 416636, or alternatively fax your CV to him on 0444 416002.

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Chaucer House, 6 Bolero Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1BB
Tel: 0444 416636 Fax: 0444 416002

P.A. for expanding
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS
must have all-round tax, audit
and computer skills. Excellent
salary.

CV to: Robert O'Brien & Co.,
Chartered Accountants,
11 The Shambles,
George Lane,
London E18 1BD.

CITY CAREER
An opportunity has arisen
for two trainees, (25-35) to
build a successful career
within a large city firm. For
the selected candidates, an
extensive training
programme is offered in
connection with a well-
defined career path coupled
with a genuine opportunity
to join management.
£22K, O.T.E.
Telephone Stephen Parry
on 071 242 1048

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We are seeking to expand our
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CV to: K. Sansom FCA
A.I.M.S. 24 Red Lion
Street
London, WC1R 4SA
The Chairman,
Euro Business Consultants,
Lynce House, 2 Station Road,
Hilary, Surrey GU10 5NF



071-377 1600

CORPORATE FINANCE, INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK, CITY

For recently qualified accountants, 2 years qualified company & commercial lawyers or 1-3 years experienced management consultants

£28-£35000 pa plus bonuses and a full range of benefits

Typically in most of the above (accountancy, law, consultancy) history repeats itself with monotonous regularity, positive pressure to perform is often lacking. Qualities of drive, innovation, focus; the ability to see the key issue in a welter of detail is sacrificed to routine. For the most part it is difficult to measure individual performance objectively, the measure is therefore neglected. You will have probably discovered that in industry if it does not get measured it does not get done. In careers if it does not get measured it rarely gets paid.

We want to recruit three people who can demonstrate the ability to handle large amounts of information imaginatively, who are competitive and pragmatic and who have an empathy for business. The client's prejudice is that you should have a background in accountancy, law or strategic management consultancy but they are probably prepared to be persuaded about variations that they have not yet considered. They are looking for candidates who are particularly intelligent; the stated criteria are particularly good A levels, 3 grade A's is handy, and a minimum of a 2.1 in your degree, if you have taken professional exams then you should have all first time passes.

Corporate finance delivers a long, varied and particularly well paid career for those who are successful. You will be involved in key negotiations with people who have a clear overview of the sectors that they are in and the companies they run, if your ambition is to succeed in commerce, these positions are a fine place to start.

In the first instance call Theo Stegers or Terry de'Ath, please do not send your cv yet. If daytime access to a phone where you can have a private conversation is restricted, fax brief details and a number where we can reach you to:

Recruitment Matters, 15 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3EJ
Telephone: 071-377 1600/071-814 9900 Fax: 071-377 1801

Japanese Financial Information

£ negotiable
benefits package

We are currently seeking a person with knowledge and experience of Financial Markets/Institutions to supervise a small team, in our Information Management and Research Department. You will be involved in receiving, analysing, checking and editing UK and International news and market commentaries from Japanese and European Financial Analysts based in UK, Europe, Switzerland and USA.

Specialised financial sector knowledge and experience is essential, as are excellent communication and organisational skills. Applicants must be bilingual in Japanese and English (written and spoken). Knowledge of on-line screen based financial information systems an advantage.

Salary is negotiable and is complemented by a full benefits package. Hours of work 1100 - 1900.

Send CV's to Philip Bryett, Personnel Manager, QUICK EUROPE LIMITED, 65 Clifton Street, London EC2A 4JE or send by fax: 071-377 2209.

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NO AGENCIES

SMITH NEW COURT SECURITIES LIMITED

OIL ANALYST

Smith New Court, one of the UK's leading independent Securities Houses, is seeking to recruit an Analyst to strengthen the Oil and Gas team within the UK Research department.

Primary responsibilities are to follow the exploration and production sector of the Oil and Gas industry and to communicate investment recommendations to both institutional clients and relevant employees of the Company.

The requirement is for an individual who has had a minimum of four years experience with an Oil and Gas operating company or consultancy. Familiarity with all aspects of the upstream Oil and Gas industry and experience in the financial analysis of this industry are necessary.

It is essential that the individual is qualified with a degree in either Geology, Engineering or a financially oriented subject. Motivation, numeracy and excellent oral and written communication skills are important.

We offer a varied, challenging career in a dynamic environment with a highly competitive remuneration package.

Please submit your application, including a CV to:

Kirsten Wright, Personnel Department,
Smith New Court Securities Limited,
Smith New Court House,
20 Farringdon Road,
London EC1M 3NH



OPPORTUNITIES IN OPTIONS AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

Currency derivatives (RIG) Ltd, a member of SFA, specialists in advising corporate clients in Liability and Asset Management and the use of derivatives. We now seek to fill two positions in Options Marketing. Both of these positions are Croydon based.

The two option Specialist positions available would suit someone with 3 or more years option trading experience and an interest in sales and marketing. The ideal applicants would display a high level of initiative and drive in developing new client business, educated to degree level and be fluent in spoken and written English.

Please reply with CV and current salary details by 24/09/93 to:

Mr Perini Resman,
Currency derivatives (RIG) Ltd
1st Floor, 119 High Street, Croydon CR0 1QG

CAREER IN MANAGEMENT

Manager in this successful independent Sales and Marketing company is looking to recruit a goal and career minded individual to be fully trained and guided to enter management at the earliest opportunity. Potential to progress to managing partner, with full profit participation.

We are an associated company to Citibank. Applicants must be aged 23 to 30. Call KARL JACOBS at City Financial Partners - 071 379 5895 ext. 30622

FINANCIAL ANALYST

North East
£28,000 package plus relocation

This highly successful manufacturing company operating in the electronics sector employs over 600 people with its products manufactured to tight deadlines in varying batch sizes. It uses the latest technology to ensure leadership of its European marketplace and is committed to growth.

A key part of this growth strategy is to drive forward a programme promoting a stronger focus on financial management issues by managers in the manufacturing process. You will be working closely with a team of production and other senior managers on a single modern manufacturing site,

quickly understanding the business and demonstrating succinctly how the control of major cost drivers can improve the profitability of their areas. These managers are highly committed and have many demands on their time, so you will need to command credibility, attention and respect from day one.

You will be in your mid to late 20's with a technical or engineering degree, and must have 1-2 years' experience of running either engineering projects or a production line in a fast-moving batch environment. You must also have either an MBA, or 1-2 years' project accounting, costing, business or financial analysis experience. You will need to demonstrate outstanding analytical and communication skills to influence senior managers towards your proposals.

This is a rare opportunity to contribute directly to the success of an ambitious organisation in a very high profile role. The package will reflect this and includes a company bonus, substantial company benefits and relocation assistance where appropriate.

Please write to: Stewart Wright, Austin Knight Recruitment, Earl Gray House, Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6EP. Tel: 091 232 0167 (days) or 091 297 1572 (7-9 pm only) quoting ref NR905.

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FINALIST/NEWLY QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

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Attractive Salary
and benefits package

Our client 3Com, with a worldwide turnover in excess of \$600 million, is a leading and growing U.S. data networking company.

3Com supports its innovative new products with an aggressive marketing, sales and service strategy, uniquely positioning it as the premier global networking partner.

As a result of continued expansion and the increasing responsibilities placed on the European Finance Department, 3Com is seeking to recruit a highly motivated Financial Accountant.

The key function of the role is to provide a high degree of support in all aspects of Financial Accounts. The ideal candidate will have a strong technical accounting background together with practical experience of implementing process improvements and refining policies and procedures. Working with Operations Management, as well as other areas of finance, you will need to display a great degree of initiative, first class communication skills and be an organised and methodical individual.

An expanding and dynamic organisation with sophisticated accounting systems, 3Com needs to recruit a young accountant who can demonstrate the ability to contribute to this demanding and rewarding environment.

For further information please contact Karen Heathfield on 0444 416636 or alternatively fax your CV to her on 0444 416002.

3Com

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Chaucer House, 6 Bolero Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1BB
Tel: 0444 416636 Fax: 0444 416002



**REED
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

SENIOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

East Grinstead, Sussex

Attractive Salary
and benefits package

Our client, Reed Information Services is the UK's largest provider of business to business information across a wide range of professional and industrial sectors. The company's sustained growth and international development is backed by the worldwide resources of the Reed Elsevier Group.

The growing demands on the Finance Department has led to the creation of an opportunity for a commercially orientated Senior Financial Accountant.

Reporting to the Chief Accountant, the primary functions of the role will be to provide the management teams of both Reed Information Services and Reed Telepublishing Limited with financial information, forecasts and accounts. You will also review and ensure that appropriate controls are operating and will provide pro-active financial/business support across all the Reed Information Services functions.

We are seeking to recruit a highly motivated qualified accountant with a minimum of three years experience gained within a financial accounting environment. You will possess drive and ambition and will need to be an effective written and verbal communicator. This position offers an ideal platform for a dynamic accountant within this profit orientated market leader.

For further information please contact Karen Heathfield on 0444 416636 or alternatively fax your CV to her on 0444 416002

A member of the Reed Elsevier group

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THE TIMES DEGREE VACANCIES SERVICE: SCIENCES

How the Vacancies Service works

Science offers fresh opportunities for candidates seeking a university place as the new academic year looms. There are plenty of places available in both traditional and new universities, as today's listing shows. About 20 new courses have been added to The Times Degree Vacancies Service.

Admissions officers believe many science places are likely to remain unfilled when clearing ends next week. However, demand remains highest among the traditional universities. Edinburgh, York and Liverpool have removed most of their courses. Life sciences, such as biology, genetics and zoology, have proved particularly popular.

The former polytechnics are working hard

to sell their science courses, but are struggling to generate a last-minute flood of applications. There has been little movement since *The Times* last published science vacancies on Monday. But Nottingham Trent, Bournemouth and Sheffield Hallam have all removed several courses.

The University of Central Lancashire said the growing popularity of Higher National Diploma courses might explain the difficulties facing new universities as they tried to fill science courses. It admissions officers have noted that many candidates were snapping up HND places where previously they might have been expected to hold out for a degree place through clearing.

Overall, the traditional universities look like taking up to 10,000 more students than they did last year, despite the government's attempt to halt expansion in the arts and social sciences. But other institutions have accepted the need to consolidate. Surprisingly, the Polytechnics Central Admissions System now expects its overall number of students placed to drop this autumn.

All the courses listed on this page still had vacancies yesterday. The codes following each university or college name are those appearing in the UCCA or PCAS handbook for 1993 entry. Where a figure appears in brackets, it gives the institution's estimate of the number of A-level points required for entry.

Points are calculated on the normal UCCA scale, using a maximum of three A-levels. An A grade is worth ten points, B eight, C six, D four and E two. An A grade at AS-level counts as five points, B four, C three, D two and E one point. Where a university gives no points requirement, it is either willing to consider candidates from outside the conventional academic route, possibly with work experience.

● The Times listings are compiled from universities' own returns. Not all institutions are included because some provide information to the admissions bodies and official agencies only.

UCCA

AGRICULTURE

Bath: D241 (1), D244 (8)
Cranfield (Silsoe): D9N1
Glasgow: D820 (1), D860 (16),
L130 (16), D220 (16)
Leeds: D224 (16)
Newcastle: D255 (14), D242 (8)
Nottingham: D818 (14)
Reading: D200 (10), D220 (12),
D230 (12), D240 (12), D253 (12),
D255 (12)
Wales: Bangor: D200 (12)

ANATOMY

Glasgow: B140 (16)
London: UC: B143 (20)
Wales: Cardiff: B141 (18)

APPLIED SCIENCE

Cranfield: RMCS: F331 (12), F335
(12), GJ15 (12)

AQUACULTURE

Glasgow: C174 (16)
Leeds: C174 (18)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Liverpool: V602 (12)

ASTRONOMY

Glasgow: FG51 (16), FF35 (16)
Leeds: G115 (14)
London: Queen Mary & West: F500
(8), F503 (12), F505 (12)
London: UC: F500 (20), F502 (20),
F503 (20), F504 (20)
Newcastle: F520 (10)
Wales: Cardiff: F525 (12)

ASTROPHYSICS

Leeds: F335 (16)
Leeds: F335 (20)
London: Queen Mary & West: F523
(12), F526 (8), GF15 (12)
London: UC: F520 (20), F527 (20)
Newcastle: Y121 (8), Y120 (12)
Nottingham: F364 (18)
UMIST: G115 (18)
Wales: Cardiff: F526 (12), F523
(12)

BIOCHEMISTRY

Essex: C700 (10)
Glasgow: C700 (16), CF76 (16),
C720 (16)
Kent: F1C1 (8), F1CC (8), C700
(8)
Leeds: C706 (16), C571 (16),
C871 (16)
Leeds: C700 (16), C140 (16),
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Over is revived at
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German white knight
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CINEMA: Geoff Brown on a too-reverent but finely acted film biography of Tina Turner

Homage to a rock goddess

Forty years ago Hollywood biographies of musicians, songwriters and entertainers formed a regular part of the moviegoers' diet, served with plenty of syrup and corn. Triumph one minute, heartbreak the next, plus familiar tunes: the pattern was constant. Now such films are more likely to be served as television dinners, cooked for the taste buds of middle-aged viewers, though occasionally the biopic of a rock musician is produced for cinema's young audiences.

What's Love Got To Do With It, Tina Turner's story, is hardly the film to redefine the genre. The script, derived from the singer's autobiography, adopts a worshipful stance, and plods through her life — triumph, heartbreak, triumph again — with little originality. Yet the soundtrack might set a deaf person dancing, while as an actor's showcase the film is a dream.

Like Robert Downey Jr in *Chaplin*, Angela Bassett takes on the challenge of impersonating an icon, and emerges triumphant. She may not look like the rock 'n' roller (still going strong at 54, but emotional conviction carries her through), from Tina's beginnings as the naïve country girl who joins Ike Turner's band to the couple's long years of public success and private pain. Laurence Fishburne also makes hay with the difficult role of Ike, the abusive husband who imprisons Tina in her own success. To celebrate stardom, he uses his full name: Larry had always been sufficient before.

Cinematically, director Brian Gibson was probably in better shape 15 years ago when he made cogent films such as *Billion Dollar Bubble* for the BBC. But he never squanders the film's large canvas, and clocks the years in amusing ways, through home-movie footage, Afro hairstyles and other signs of the times.

There is one overriding problem: these passing years bring so little change to Tina herself. She becomes stuck in the rut of the saintly abused wife, taking it on the chin scene after scene. This may well accord with some of the facts, but it is aggravating watching a woman who seems such a glutton for punishment.

you start to lose sympathy. If the scriptwriter Kate Lanier got off her knees and stopped treating Tina like Mother Teresa, the dramatic conflicts would be greatly sharpened. But any overhaul of *What's Love Got To Do With It* should keep the actors, keep the music and the wonderful opening, a depiction of Tina as an irrepressible child, led out of church for her "wild gyrations": the film's best scene.

The *Baby of Macon* features its own wild gyrations, in a cathedral setting, no less. Peter Greenaway's latest ex-

actors playing the local militia queue to rape the virgin for real (more than 200 times, we are told); the theatre audience's principal worry, gullible young aristocrat Cosimo Medici, also gets involved.

Yet our own attempt to penetrate the material becomes thwarted by the oppressive density of vestments, drapery, farmyard animals, baroque ornamentation, images from Renaissance paintings and piles of tortuous words. Greenaway has come a distance since his early, fleet-footed minimalist shorts, each film now drags such a weight of imagery and intellectual conceits that it has a hard job staying upright. The ability of cameraman Sacha Vierny, designers Ben Van Os, Jan Roelofs and the crews to conjure their own miracles from modest budgets only increases the problem.

In *Prospero's Books*, Shakespeare and John Gielgud ignited proceedings. Other past features mollified the viewer with scripts stamped by Greenaway's scholarly wit, love of paradox and eccentric trivia. The *Macon* script, however, is a flimsy affair, which gives little encouragement to the valiant actors, led by Julia Ormonde, Ralph Fiennes and Philip Stans.

Cinema audiences get even more of the director's cold shoulder: watching *The Baby* is like being locked for eternity in a hideous religious painting. Up to now, this has been more a problem for us, not Greenaway. A core constituency has always cheered him on; and continued funding, mostly from Europe, has given him carte blanche to be as obscure as he wished. But in the unpleasant, arrogant, infuriating *Baby of Macon*, he reaches crisis point. So, coincidentally, does his regular Dutch producer, Kees Kasander, whose company Allartus was declared bankrupt last month.

More grisly sights are on parade in *Acción Mutante*, a Spanish horror and science-fiction spoof produced by the Almodóvar brothers, Pedro and Agustín. There is little sign of their camp imagination: the mind of the director, Alex de la Iglesia, runs more to brutal jokes about hunchbacks, Siamese twins, hearse heroines with their mouths stapled, and wounds attacked with a razor, salt and vinegar.



Angela Bassett, as Tina Turner in *What's Love Got To Do With It*, takes on the challenge of impersonating an icon

Acción Mutante are disabled terrorists who wage war against the world's beautiful people. They kidnap a wholesome bread tycoon's daughter and ship her to another planet to collect the ransom. En route, the gang fall out, the dingy spacecraft springs numerous leaks, and whatever bizarre charm the film first possessed becomes engulfed by unfunny sick humour.

Daughters of the Dust es-

corts the spectator to a far more ennobling universe of blue waters, white sand, sharp shadows and African-American islanders off the South Carolina coast, their white dresses ruffling in the wind. It takes time to feel at ease here, for American film-maker Julie Dash, making her first feature after several acclaimed shorts, thumbs her nose at narrative. This is a cinema of poetic images, of looks, gestures and declamatory speeches.

The goal is to resurrect the "Gullah" communities at the turn of the century — island descendants of slaves, torn between upholding ancient African beliefs and joining the mainland's modern world. A family picnic, on the eve of migration, is under way. Stories are told, beliefs expounded, wrapped in photography of uncommon splendour. A shorter running time would probably help, though the film still deserves applause as a ravishing visual exhumation of a vanished world.

Back to the mundane for *The Crush*, a Hollywood pot-boiler which should probably have gone straight to video. The cast have no marquee value; nor is there much to notice in director Alan Shapiro's script, apart from the unlikelyhood of Cary Elwes's investigative reporter failing to spot that his teenage neighbour is a psychopathic Lolita. Still, it passes the time, and Bruce Surtees's photography is good enough to deserve a much better film.

TELEVISION

Bloody popular shows

In 51 BC, Marcus Rufus Caelius waxed desperate for leopards. He wrote repeatedly from Rome to his mentor Cicero in southern Turkey, demanding leopards by return of post. "About the leopards, you should see that the animals are shipped to me... In almost all my letters to you I have mentioned leopards... I would be glad if you would take the trouble, and I keep asking you this, to let me have something in the way of beasts... It will be a disgrace to you if I have to go without my leopards."

But if he grew quite tedious on the subject, he had good reason. For as last night's quite fascinating *Timewatch* (BBC 2) explained, Roman power focused increasingly on the bloodbath spectacles staged for public delight — first at funerals, then in the specially built amphitheatre, and finally in the Colosseum (which seated 50,000). If the term "bread and circuses" ever suggested to one's innocent imagination clever sea-lions playing "Rule, Britannia!" on old-fashioned bicycle horns, this "True Story of the Roman Arena" made you think again.

The fate of those leopards, of course, was to be dragged back from all corners of the Empire, shown off to an immense bloodthirsty crowd for a few seconds, and then horribly skewered. Five thousand exotic animals might be killed in a single day, apparently; which may explain why Cicero — a notable brain — was reluctant to comply with the requisition.

The point was that the crowd loved it, and somehow in all the excitement completely forgot they couldn't vote. Once the Colosseum was up and running (80 AD), the programme of events was as follows. 9am: wild beast hunt in the arena, with lots of spectacle, scenery, animal-handlers dressed in mythological costume. Mid-morning: depending on still having sufficient animals alive, Christians and other criminals "exposed to wild beasts"; the victims usually oiled up and the animals' attention specially directed towards them (hence the expression "Pull the other leg, it's got bells on").

It goes on. Midday: soak up some of the blood, squirt perfume to disguise the stench, and then commence the mass executions, in which criminals are simply hacked to death. Then, climax of the day, 2pm: the gladiators. Thousands of trained combatants, in pairs, slug it out to the death, loads of blood, more corpses, end of story, home-time. Apparently, prostitutes waited outside the Colosseum to service the punters aroused by the show.

How much of last night's film reflected new research was hard for a layman to guess. What certainly seemed new was the emphasis on the so-called "games" as a cornerstone of imperial rule, even in the Christian era. But it was difficult to envisage violence and murder on such a scale, and a half-hearted analogy with a modern big fight at Aries didn't help very much.

These Roman shows were clearly fantastically sophisticated (from the production point of view) yet utterly barbaric. A paradox. One will never watch *Spartacus* in quite the same way again.

LYNNE TRUSS

Creating the future from the past

John Percival previews the second Vivarta festival of contemporary Indian dance, which opens tomorrow

woman undertaking prescribed moods, manners and tempos in a set order, from pure abstraction to winsome expression of religious or amorous devotion. At the other end of the scale was Kathakali, the colourful dance drama telling the legendary adventures of gods, warriors and princes, where men played all the roles.

Those of us who went at all frequently, whether from enthusiasm or in the line of duty, learnt also about the Kathak and Manipuri styles from the north, and other variants besides; but you get the picture. It took an exceptional artist to breathe life into the mould.

No wonder that some practitioners began looking for new ways of using their traditions that would relate more

closely to the world we live in now and to developments in the other arts. We saw British-based choreographers such as Shobana Jeyasingh and Nahid Siddiqui collaborating with European composers and developing different structures or themes for their traditional dance techniques. Meanwhile, in the leading centres of India, some choreographers were trying even more drastic experiments.

It was left to an Englishman, Simon Dove, to have the idea of offering British audiences a manifesto of the new developments. His training was in art history, his work

largely concerned with Indian performing arts, and he grew dissatisfied with the extent to which what he calls the "cultural icon" was still dominating the marketing and content of south Asian dance. On a study tour several years back he sought out those dancers who (without the government finance and sponsorship which go to more traditional forms) were working towards new ways of using movement.

FINALLY, under the title Vivarta (a Sanskrit word meaning transformation or evolution), he presented a festival last year of seven

companies or soloists in a three-week season at the Place Theatre in London: most of them appeared also at Phoenix Arts in Leicester.

His argument was that following the strict cultural heritage had produced some refined and inspired work but that audiences felt emotionally and intellectually remote from it. What he wanted was a new contemporary south Asian dance language which communicates more directly with contemporary audiences.

By its nature, work in this genre is less predictable, but most of it was good, and the best of it thrilling. Reactions

were generally enthusiastic so Dove has come up this year with another festival. Kumbhini Lakshmi's company Kadamb, seen last time, returns from Bombay to open the season in Leicester tomorrow, going on to the Arncliffe in Bristol and the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The Place Theatre is otherwise still the London base. Nahid Siddiqui's company and the Yuva youth group, both British-based, are again taking part, but this time the net is spread even wider into the south Asian diaspora.

For instance, Roger Sinha, born in London of Indian and Armenian parents, was, he says, "exported to Canada at age eight", studied ballet and contemporary dance there, and is bringing a solo that

explores racial experiences of his own youth through the medium of an autobiographical essay by Hanif (My Beautiful Laundrette) Kureishi. And the French choreographer Annette Lelay, after years of studying Kathakali, has collaborated with five male dancers from Kerala on *La Sensitive*, which takes a poem by Shelley as its point of departure. Malliki Sarabhai, meanwhile, draws on her European theatrical experience, with Peter Brook among others, as well as her work in India with her mother Mrinalini (the greatest Bharata Natyam dancer I ever saw).

Thanks to Simon Dove, British audiences have the opportunity to see a range of work it would be difficult to match in India without a lot of patience and travel.

● Vivarta begins at Phoenix Arts, Leicester, (0533 554854) tomorrow, 8pm. The Place Theatre details on (01-357 003)

WE USED to know what to expect from a programme of Indian dancing. Tradition ruled, stretching back thousands of years — even if most of it had been reconstructed much more recently from old textbooks and pictures.

True, there was a range of styles. At one extreme lay the classic Bharata Natyam of south India, a solo recital by a

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The new Phillies playmaker strikes up

A once-great American orchestra fallen on hard times sent for gentle German reinforcements. Richard Morrison hears the result

When a top American orchestra acquires a new music director, it makes damn sure the whole town knows about it. "Welcome to Wolfgang Sawallisch," shouted huge banners that lined Broad Street from the Academy of Music to City Hall. "Welcome to Wolfgang Sawallisch," said the official Philadelphia city proclamation, presented to the 70-year-old German maestro by the mayor outside the Academy on Monday.

They stopped the traffic so that hundreds of music-lovers could gather in the street and cheer this touching ceremony. The mayor pronounced the Philadelphia Orchestra to be a cultural treasure in the same class as "the Liberty Bell, the soft pretzel, the Phillies and the Eagles". Sawallisch summoned up Kennedy-like reserves of rhetoric and declared himself to be a Philadelphian.

If all this razzmatazz surprised a sophisticated European who has spent the past 20 years discreetly and efficiently directing the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, what followed must have been a total culture-shock. The doors of the venerable Academy were thrown open, and it seemed as if the entire populace of Philadelphia streamed on to the stage where Leopold Stokowski and Eugene Ormandy had transfixed, terrorised and charmed generations of musicians. A television programme chronicling the 93-year history of the orchestra was shown on big screens; and box-office staff took \$7,000 worth of bookings for the new concert season in two hours.

Of course, when it comes to mounting an ostentatious parade of civic pride, the Americans have no equals. But Philadelphia has spe-

cial reasons for making a fuss about the coming of Sawallisch. One of the most compelling is the need to ensure that its orchestra continues to compete effectively with those fat cats down the road — the New York Philharmonic. Unfortunately for Philadelphia, New York has also appointed a veteran German maestro, Kurt Masur, and he has made a brilliant success of his first season. Comparisons between the two conductors are inevitable, especially as both excel in the central Austro-German repertoire, and Philadelphia is keen that Sawallisch's virtues should not be side-lined by the blitz of Masurmania from the New York publicity machine.

More than pride is at stake: recording contracts could hang in the balance. Yet Sawallisch is a very different character: warmer, more courteous, far less aggressive in rehearsal, a "musician's musician" who believes in playing the notes stylishly, not in imposing too much of his own personality between composer and listener. He also has bags of experience. His 1,200 operatic performances include a mind-boggling total of 32 Ring cycles, and his recording career with EMI stretches back four decades.

But the key question is whether Sawallisch has the vigour to revitalise Philadelphia's great orchestral tradition. Walk round the Academy, and ghosts of past glories seem to leap at you from dozens of framed photographs. Living up to these legends is no easy matter, as Sawallisch's immediate predecessor discovered. Riccardo Muti was expected to revitalise the orchestra, but his 12 years in Philadelphia were increasingly clouded by disappointment. He made little attempt to hide his



When Wolfgang Sawallisch joined the Philadelphia Orchestra some locals feared they were getting a 70-year-old has-been — but events have proved them wrong

dislike for many aspects of American life. Players and patrons complained that he was "distant". The rich Philadelphia sound lovingly cultivated by Ormandy — all powerful strings with lashings of vibrato — was whittled away and, said the critics, rendered practically anonymous. Worst of all, Muti seemed to clamp down on all his Italianate fire, producing symphonic interpretations of stupendous blandness. A fine orchestra languished.

Well, the encouraging sign from Tuesday night's gala concert was that Sawallisch appears to have

jolted the band off its auto-pilot. The playing in Brahms's Second Symphony was ardent, full of intelligent detail, and with the kind of big, luscious string tone that must have set the backstage ghosts smiling. And Sawallisch won the hearts of his new fellow citizens by devoting the concert's first half entirely to American music.

Ned Rorem's Whitman-inspired *Eagles*, premiered by this orchestra in 1959, was dusted down and proved to be an evocative piece, colourfully orchestrated, and Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto was given fulsome virtuoso treatment

by Izhak Perlman, who scythed through the fearsome passagework of the last movement as though it were a beginner's exercise.

So, an auspicious musical start to the Sawallisch era. Unfortunately, the most pressing problems in the orchestral world are not usually musical ones. The Philadelphia players, with exquisite timing, are just about to go on strike: they say they are not getting as good a deal as the New York players. No surprises there.

Then the ancient question of the new concert-hall must be resolved. The Academy's gruesome cotton-

wool acoustics have been a source of despair for decades. Now a model of the proposed new concert-hall is on display (similar in many ways to Birmingham's Symphony Hall) and Sawallisch talks of leading his orchestra into its new home before the millennium. But whether the recession-hit city can afford to build it remains to be seen.

Finally, there is the dilemma that every American orchestra — and British for that matter — must face sooner or later: how to widen the base of a largely middle-class, middle-aged white audience that is slowly dwindling. "I was aston-

ished when I first came to Philadelphia," Sawallisch says. "A city with so many black people, yet so few of them come to the concerts even when there are black soloists or black conductors. We hope to change that and also to work on our youth programme."

As a start, he is conducting a children's concert this week, as well as two performances of Beethoven's Ninth, and playing the piano in a chamber music concert. Some in Philadelphia feared they were getting a burnt-out has-been. Opinions are now being swiftly and radically revised.

TOMORROW

Heard about the art exhibition so big it took two separate galleries to house it? American art in the 21st century, the visiting show at the Royal Academy, is reviewed by Richard Cork.

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CONCERT

Mozart goes missing

ECO/Zukerman Barbican

UNFAIR as it may be to compare any conductor with Günter Wand, he sets standards that are all but impossible to emulate. With Wand in charge, you sense that every phrase has been agonised over, every chord carefully weighed. The memory of his accounts of Schumann and Brahms at the Proms haunted me at the opening concert of the English Chamber Orchestra's season on Sunday.

Perhaps the programming was the first mistake: Mozart, Mozart and Mozart. Nothing wrong with the Symphonies Nos 40 and 41, or the Violin Concerto No 5, but it is the kind of unadventurous programme that encourages unimaginative playing. Pinchas Zukerman is no mean conductor to have at the helm, but he scarcely had us hanging on each note.

The last movement of the G minor Symphony and the first of the C (the "Jupiter") fared worst of all. The former was a light-hearted romp rather than the conclusion to one of Mozart's most turbulent works, while the C was set in motion so matter-of-factly that one could be forgiven for thinking this was the end of the season, not the beginning. In fairness, the orchestral playing was first-rate: articulation in the string department was strong and precise, and there was some elegant shaping of lines from woodwind and brass. But the ECO would have been on auto-pilot, an impression enhanced by the casual stance of Zukerman: slightly turned to one side, weight on one leg, for all the world like Joe Loss.

My heart sinks when I hear the opening phrases of the C's second movement announced like an adagio: "andante" does not mean slow, but moderately paced. Still, Zukerman contrived to sustain an eloquent flow in this movement. Indeed, the extra space he allowed himself at last gave expression to some of the "troubled serenity" (to borrow the musicologist Arnold Whittall's apt phrase about late Mozartian style) so lacking elsewhere.

BARRY MILLINGTON

MUSICAL DRAMA

The hits keep on coming

Silas Marner Salisbury Festival

by some leading composers writing for the stage.

The lyrics — Goodall's own — rarely sparkle, but at least they were clearly audible: a tribute to both composer and singers. The string accompaniments too are endlessly resourceful: Silas's song about the child he has adopted begins with arabesques on a solo cello (the instrument identified with him), joined eventually by the remaining strings. Lively counterpoints buoy up refrains before you can ore of them, and spicy harmonies (nothing too extreme) are judiciously sprinkled about.

Lyrics and music were powerfully projected by a first-rate cast of classically trained singers, led by Richard Suart as a sympathetic, bearded (and unaging) Silas. The conscience-ridden Godfrey Cass was forcefully sung by John Graham-Hall, and his black-mailing brother Dunsan by a slightly underpowered Philip Guy-Bromley.

Admirable too were Angela Hickey as the worldly wise Dolly Winthrop, Tinkie Olafmihan as the more virtuous Nancy Lammeter, and Gaynor Keeble, who got the only chuckles of the evening with her "I'm ugly" routine as Priscilla. Polly Hewitson as Eppie and Chris Walton as the young Aaron also deserve an honourable mention. An adult choir added occasional commentary in quasi-Passion style, and the chorus of local schoolchildren was so good that it was a shame they were not drawn more into the action. Simon Halsey kept things on the move with his spirited conducting.

A general ghtening up of lyrics and stage action could transform an already attractive piece into a winner.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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We're off to see the wizard again

Fans of Dame Iris may be enchanted by this tale of magic and romance in west London, says Victoria Glendinning. Others will find it too much to take

The most lovable character in Iris Murdoch's new novel is a collie dog called Anax. He knows whom he loves and who his God is — his master, the homosexual Bellamy, who has tragically given Anax away as part of his plot to separate himself from all worldly affections. Bellamy thinks, mistakenly, that he will find his own God in a monastery. The best and most original writing in *The Green Knight* describes, from Anax's point of view, the escape from his new home and his instinctive, desperate, exhausting trajectory through London's streets in search of Bellamy.

The humans in the story are also seeking true love and a path to God. At the centre of the story is a family of three teenage daughters and their widowed mother. Around their house in West London circle two middle-aged brothers, Clement (an actor) and Lucas (a historian). They, like Bellamy and the numerous other, middle-aged characters of both sexes, were all friends of the girls' late father. There is also a young man, Harvey, who hurts his foot early on and limps symbolically throughout.

Lucas (the historian) has apparently killed a mugger with his umbrella, in self-defence. The alleged mugger returns from the dead and, ingratiating himself into the group, breaks the various spells under which they lie paralysed. His interest in them releases passions, aspirations and violent impulses. It is he who sets the ground rules for the duels between good and evil. It is he who is the Green Knight, and also perhaps, the minotaur. His name is Mir, which means both "world" and "peace" in Russian. Exactly what he represents is unclear: perhaps "a sort of instrument of justice, a kind of errand boy, a kind of moral force, like some unofficial wandering angel".

"What does it all mean?" asks Clement, understandably. The world is divided into those who believe that we are ruled by unseen forces, best expressed by metaphors of myth, religion and magic, and those who don't. Murdoch's fictional world is populated by people in the first category. The language of *The Green Knight* is spring-loaded accordingly. The three adolescent girls are called "strange and wonderful", fairy-tale damsels, sacrificial victims, living "under a spell of chastity". Lucas and the Green Knight are "two great rival magicians", "crazy wizards".

Murdoch does not leave it to the reader to infer transcendental significances. Both she and her characters use the words for the concepts, all of the time — angels and monsters, signals and miracles, transformations, metamorphoses, visions and epiphanies, revenges, curses and duels, quests and spells, rituals, ordeals, reconciliations, catastrophes, exaltations, salvation, resurrection. There is some kind of thunderbolt from heaven. Houses, on crucial occasions, are seen as enchanter's palaces, chapels, theatres.

This theatrical heightening is intensified by Murdoch's continuous use of italics for emphasis. Hardly a page, so far as I can see, is without its hectic scattering. Many small pieces of factual information are repeated unnecessarily. These facts, like her copious use of brackets, might have been modified by sensitive editing. God knows it is hard, in a long, complex book, not to develop mannerisms. Another of Murdoch's is to place perfectly ordinary phrases in inverted commas, as in "He went shopping for food." I do not understand the thinking behind it, if there is any.

The Green Knight is a mythic costume drama, with special credit due to the wig designer. We are



Dame Iris Murdoch, painted by Tom Phillips. Her characters seek true love and a path to God

THE GREEN KNIGHT

By Iris Murdoch
Chato & Windus, £15.99

told on every important occasion, in detail, what everyone of both sexes is wearing. No one has unremarkable hair. Everyone seems to have an inordinate amount of the stuff, red or dark or fair, "glossy wild locks" or stiff and straight, and repeatedly dwelt upon. Strangely, the only man who has hair cut close to his head is the one accused of wearing a wig.

The action is advanced chiefly by people enquiring after the mysterious activities of the others by telephone, or searching for them by taxi, with periodical dramatic confrontations — sexual or pedagogic or murderous — to notch the tension up a degree or three. Some are known only through their actions, others reveal themselves in prolix interior monologues. Perhaps to remind us that in spite of the metaphysical high jinks we are, actually, in the everyday world, visits to the lavatory are frequently reported. "After all, he is human,

the chef is a virtuoso, the recipe is classic (in Murdochian terms), the ingredients superior. You will enjoy it enormously if it is the kind of thing that you enjoy. It may make some people throw up.

Myself, I shall leave rather a lot on the side of the plate. What I have consumed, with gratitude, pleasure and profit, are Murdoch's flashes of genius, the moments in which she is absolutely original, like a brilliant child, and therefore touching and funny. That is the voice which enchants the readers of her early, simpler novels, and it can be heard above the oceanic roarings of this late work. The girls' mother, the only thoroughly ordinary person in the book, wonders whether everything might "soon begin to seem like a dream, where incompatible things seem true".

In the dream that is *The Green Knight*, Iris Murdoch's silliness and Iris Murdoch's wisdom are incompatible, yet both seem true.

Side by side yet separate

BOTH O'Connor and Trevor grew up in Ireland and, in their earliest years, in County Cork. But, spiritually, socially and politically, they didn't grow up in the same country. O'Connor was Catholic, working-class, Trevor, Protestant middle-class.

Both these collections are mostly about the Ireland of the middle decades of the present century, the period of the maximum social influence of a triumphal Catholic church. Neither cared for that very much. O'Connor's uneasiness with it is that of an insider, with a conscious inclination to be out, and yet a half-irritated attraction to the old ways. Whereas Trevor says: "I was fortunate that my accident of birth actually placed me on the edge of things. I was born into a minority that all my life has seemed in danger of withering away."

O'Connor's stories of priests were found shockingly irreverent and anti-clerical by vocal Catholics in the mid-century. Today his clerical portraits might seem excessively rosy and sentimental. But although there is a lot of fun and endearing oddity in these stories, they are also full of a sense of oppression, not so much from the church as from the social mores which have grown up around it. These include an obsessive fear of scandal, and thus the need to close ranks and hush-up unpleasant facts. Incest, domestic rape and the abuse of children by father uncles and priests, topics not openly discussed, were strictly taboo in O'Connor's time.

His 1967 story, "An Act of Charity", about the suicide of a young priest under the pressure of loneliness and the scorn of his superiors, reflects the general culture well. The local doctors, adroitly pressurised into providing a certificate of death from natural causes.

Trevor writes in the introduction to his collection of essays: "I became a writer of fiction at a time when the real world was being picked over and pieces of experience and use anything that was useful. These essays are a small part of what was left behind."

My considerable pleasure, in reading these gracefully evasive essays was enhanced by knowing some of the people he

wrote about. Trevor attended Seaford Park School, Dublin and Trinity College Dublin, as I did. Thus Trevor writes of a former headmaster of ours, A.J. Cordon, a huge man, whose nickname was "the Bull". "It wasn't one of the great headmasters; indeed he was hardly a headmaster at all. He was a child among adults, even if he was sometimes more than eight years of age. But his naivety was a great deal more refreshing than those qualities of leadership and purpose more ordinarily associated with his profession. He did no harm. He was frightened when he was old."

Another portrait surprises me, perhaps because we knew the man concerned at different ages of his career. He was the G.D.P. Allt, co-editor of the *Irish Review* and *W.B. Yeats*, a man of great brilliance, he met an untimely death when he stepped out of the wrong side of a train. Allt was one of Trevor's housemasters at St. Columba's College and Trevor remembers him as mildly eccentric and physically forgettable. "His big, bushy face was unobtrusively handsome, the kind of looks that

faded in the memory because they don't register strongly at the time. That was the housemaster. I knew the man as an undergraduate. Allt's looks will never fade in my memory, though I didn't think him in the least handsome. He had an enormous head, a high bulging forehead, a great fleshy nose, small piggy eyes, a tight-set mouth and a dominant, even obsessive personality.

He was eccentric all right, but not in a mild way in those days. He didn't get any drunker than many of his contemporaries, including me, but he was more dangerous when drunk. On one occasion he threw a heavy ashtray out of my fourth-floor room in Trinity into College Green, hitting an elderly woman, who had to be taken to hospital. As the ashtray was wrapped in a labelled sock of mine I was questioned by the police. Allt being elsewhere, I had a solid alibi, which was lucky. Trevor remembers him as a housemaster, "drinking a great deal of water". This may have had something to do with the change of personality.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

EXCURSIONS IN THE EAL WOLD

By William Trevor
Hutchinson, £16.99

THE OLLAR STORIES OF IRISH PRIESTS

By Frank O'Connor
Blackdog Press, £6.95

Glory that was Delhi

Through the millennia Delhi has been the site of eight separate cities, most long since gone. Today, to the outsider's eye, there appear to be four different cities — Mogul, British, post-partition and slum. Giant mental steps have to be taken to cross the fault-lines between their different worlds.

In his ambitious portrait of this many-sided city, William Dalrymple describes old Delhi, past and present, in glowing terms. He pieces together the glory and excesses of Muslim rulers during their 800-year presence from decaying monuments, records and travellers' reports. Wandering through the sadly declining splendour of Shah Jahan's 17th-century city, one of the grandest cities of the Orient in its day, he encounters some of the unique inhabitants who have survived — eunuchs, Mogul descendants, Sufis, *kabooter baz* (pigeon fanciers) and medicine *hakims*. But they are only a remnant. "Today Old Delhi is nothing but a dustbin... only the poor man who has no shelter comes to live here. All the learning, all the manners have gone," remarks one old Delhi wallah.

The Indian-British relationship, always tricky, is sensitively treated. Dalrymple compares Lutens's Delhi, built to let the Indian see "the power of Western civilisation" to Hitler's Nuremberg, its monstrous, almost megalomaniac scale echoing something fascist or even Nazi. It certainly sits incongruously in the metropolis, a mausoleum to yet another departed ruler and an impractical headquarters for the present government.

Dalrymple brings alive some colourful British personalities. The exploits of the adventurer William Fraser, his brothers and their contemporary James Skinner, reveal the gradual hardening of social relations between the Indians and British. Such ambiguities also come out in the bitter-sweet memo-



Small traders struggle to survive in New Delhi, hub of the city

Praveen Moman

CITY OF DJINNS: A Year in Delhi
By William Dalrymple
HarperCollins, £16.99

ries of aging Anglo-Indians who have remained in Delhi.

The author is nostalgic about Old Delhi and, like many, laments its decline. This sentiment is understandable: its past grandeur has more appeal than the free-for-all India of the present. However, its decline has less to do with the emigration of Muslim families, as Dalrymple believes, than the draining of power following the British defeat of the Moguls in 1857. The social revolution unleashed by partition accelerated the process: Western values and democratic pressures have undermined the feudal and refined *durbars* (imperial court) ways.

In common with all the old cities of Pakistan and India, population pressures have focused attention on provision of mass facilities in new areas. The bulk of Delhi today consists of the tumbledown post-partition area of New Delhi where the middle-class struggles to sur-

vive. This is now the hub of the city, with its Punjabi *nouveaux riches*, its scheming politicians, and middle-rank employees. However, except for engaging, if slightly cheap, caricatures of people such as the author's Sikh landlady and driver, there is no serious assessment of its inhabitants' lives. The shallowness of the Punjabi businessmen may be off-putting, but no portrait of the city can be complete without recognising their contribution. Indeed, maybe Old Delhi will one day rise again, thanks to the wealth produced by the despised Punjabi merchant.

As with all personal souvenirs, Dalrymple's Delhi is idiosyncratic. Written in gushing, excited Enid Blyton prose, we follow the intrepid William and his wife Olivia (who provides the illustrations), dashing breathlessly to pursue the next clue. This enthusiasm can be infectious, we enjoy his tales of obsessive bureaucracy, and crazy social life. But for all its fascination, the mass of disjointed material does not add up to either a series of coherent impressions or a serious historical work. The *djinns*, or spirits, of the city have tantalised him with their knowledge, but in the end have not lifted the purdah on many of their secrets.

Birth, death and revolution

Christina Koning

HOME
By Ronald Harwood
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.99

glasnost, and the mansion, Sobibor, is now a museum run by the local soviet.

Struck by the ironies of the situation, Harrison is moved to reflect on the series of improbable circumstances which has brought together two families (his wife's and his own) so widely separated in

background. These reflections provide the material for the rest of the book, which is divided in sections, each describing a racial stage in the history of one of the families.

Thus, the opening chapter deals with the flight from Russian 1911 of the Wildnowitz family, fleeing slaughter at the hands of Czar's soldiers; the action moves to the royal palace in Warsaw, where, at the same point in time, the aristocratic Sobolevs are doing things that aristocratic Russians do: riding, going to the opera, and committing suicide. Later sections

depict the Wildnowitzes in Cape Town during the 1920s, where they establish themselves in business; other, less fortunate, members of the family remain behind in Europe and (with the dizzying speed with which all such sagas move) are caught up in the Holocaust.

Meanwhile, the Sobolevs, having narrowly escaped being murdered by vengeful *apparatchiks* during the Russian revolution, have settled in Paris, where, it seems, they barely have time to draw their breath before the Gestapo arrive. So the narrative goes on, taking in wars, revolutions and of course the usual raft of births, deaths and marriages without which no book of this kind would be complete. The final effect of telescoping 80 years of 20th-century history into 350 pages is to blur the distinctions between historical and personal events, so that both seem equally unreal.

Call of the wild

One of the enduring archetypes of literature is the "wolf-child", someone raised outside the boundaries and bounds of society who returns to haunt or educate it. Egon is the story of a traumatic event in the life of such an *enfant sauvage*. Its German background owes something to the enigma of Kaspar Hauser, an inspiration to poets and film makers for more than a

hundred years. The Kaspar Hauser mystery depends on not knowing who his father was. By contrast, Egon discovers his parentage. His secret lies in what happened to him in the wilderness.

Egon is revealed as the son of a count who was a conspirator in the 1944 plot against Hitler. Because the eastern German woods are a convincing place to escape to and remain hidden away, the archetype is brought up to date and made to serve Carey Harrison's interest in the fault-lines of personality. And as this exciting book shows, the old stories are often the best ones.

Much of the book is set in the English boarding school to which the wolf-child Egon has been sent in the early fifties. His is a tale of two uncles on the English side of his family. Uncle Richard, who rescued him from the forest, starts as a romantic and ends disreputable;

he makes pornographic films in the red-light district of Hamburg. Uncle Alec who sends him to school, is the Tory MP for Liskeard in Cornwall, an altogether more conventional soul.

This suits another of Harrison's purposes. For Egon is the third of a four-volume sequence called "To Liskeard", which the publishers describe as a kind of modern day *Canterbury Tales*. Besides Egon himself, however, the most important character is his headmaster, the Rev John Hanbury. He is fascinated by his charge and senses the presence of mystery; the child does not talk of life in the forest. Hanbury's interest becomes obsessive. He is a detective exploring a psychological whodunit, a historian on the track of some great determining event.

Described as "greedy for other people's suffering", he may even be in love. As more and more cracks appear in the shell of Egon's personality, Hanbury starts to suffer them vicariously. His saving grace is his self-knowledge and genuine sympathy for the boy who is drawn back to the wild in order to resolve his childhood trauma. Events at the school take a dramatic turn, so unexpected and exciting that the book reads like the best kind of thriller.

All the fun of the fair

Tania Glyde

MY IDEA OF JON
By Will Self
Bloomsbury, £12.99

Another serial killer. Oh good! Lots of urban ennui and exorcism of the average citizen and his or her attendant bourgeois values. By placing the suit-wearing narrator's depiction of a tramp and subsequent sexual intercourse with his severed neck on the second page of his first, full-length novel, Will Self takes much with the feelings of the violence-sated reader.

But no one need worry. This is not that kind of book at all, at least for the most part. *My Idea of Jon* is vastly entertaining, a perfect follow-up to his collection of short stories, *Quantity Theory of Insanity* and the novellas, *Jack and Bull*. Self's narrator is a lower-middle class marketing consultant, Ian Wharton, son of a social climbing mother with a taverner park in Sussex, and a weak and absent father. One day, when Ian is a boy, a Mr Broadhurst arrives with his caravan. A magnetic character, this



Will Self: vastly entertaining

visitor also likes to be known as The Fat Controller, and has other strange sobriquets such as Brahmin of the Banal.

Ian proves highly susceptible to this overweight Svengali, each of whose buttocks is the size of a beer drinker's gut, and through him begins to develop special powers. The cure of Ian's adolescent acne with a face pack of his own sperm is the first of many benefits; causing the death of irritating people is far more fun.

Of course, Ian must pay a price for all this. He leaves home and goes to London. Once he has tasted a little freedom from his mentor he yearns for a normal existence and, in his frustration, seeks the help of a psychologist, the hirsute Dr Gyggel. Then Ian's troubles really begin. Self drags the reader through a lurid intellectual fairground of grotesque, vile and hilarious images, couched in luxurious vocabulary.

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The Morris Cerullo of Marxism

SCARGILL
The Unauthorised
Biography
By Paul Routledge
HarperCollins, £16.95

Arthur Scargill is still referred to by his first name, half affectionately, even by those who profess to hate him. It is as if he were a favourite comedian, whatever his misdeeds. Perhaps Ian MacGregor, as head of British Coal, put his finger on it: "He really is in the wrong business. He should be on the stage. He would make a great living as an actor or an entertainer."

Time and again, in Paul Routledge's absorbing "unauthorised" biography, it emerges how awkward Scargill is among groups of individuals. He has few friends. He needs an audience. "He comes alive in front of a sea of undifferentiated faces." According to a fellow union activist: "He had an emptiness in him." An actor fills that vacuum with the parts he plays. A dictator fills it with his demagoguery.

The most fascinating pages delve into Scargill's childhood. He was a classic mother's boy, it seems. Her

love was everything. He was not bright at school. He claims he deliberately did not sit the 11-plus because grammar school was the place for class traitors. But even at his secondary modern, he was in the B-stream. The odds are that he either failed the exam or feared he would, and the story he puts round is an early example of the conclusion reached by a man who knew him very well: "Everything's a myth with Scargill, everything." Scargill's mother died when he was

only 18, and he quickly turned to the pursuit of power.

Power apparently became a substitute for love; from his supporters he demanded worship. And he got it because so many older miners had taken their redundancy money and run. His young acolytes in the great strike of 1984-85 sang football songs as they followed him to disaster. "The greatest achievement is the struggle itself," this is Scargill's creed.

Routledge comes from a mining town, and has spent much of his journalistic career keeping track of coal disputes. He is trying to pin down the enigma of a man who is, at one level, extremely well-known, but at another level a complete mystery. He starts out with some sympathy, but he ends his "voyage



Arthur Scargill: a mother's boy of disillusion" in exasperation with the leader whose self-obsession took the miners up a cul-de-sac. For Scargill, picketing the Salfrey coke depot in Birmingham in 1972

was "the greatest day of my life". Its televised images helped catapult the young branch secretary into the NUM presidency. It led many on the left, including Scargill, to think that, with one more heave for perhaps two, socialism would take command. But the victory was a delusion. Those who wanted to teach the miners no end of a lesson regrouped. The right's ablest strategist, Nicholas Ridley, remarked (correctly) that Scargill's long-mediated big strike "was closer to a revolution than a strike". The state accepted the challenge, and won.

This well-told book is perhaps weakest when it is most journalistic — as when it re-examines what Scargill did or didn't do with Libyan money. NUM presidents have always got up to funny things.

Nor can Routledge, as he acknowledges, pin down what the real story is. Surprisingly, he does not confront the likelihood that the secret services were involved in dishing some of the dirt. (MIS would not have been doing its job in 1984-85 unless it had had someone in place in Scargill's fortress-like HQ.)

The most tantalising question, even after Routledge's research, is Scargill's relationship with the semi-clandestine Communist party. His mother was religious and non-political. But his father was a party member, and Scargill became a young communist. All his career, he was surrounded and encouraged by party members. No apparition could have spoken more crassly about Polish Solidarity. He always denied continued

party membership, but the suspicion must be that he only went off the formal party list because, otherwise, he might never have climbed to power in the conservative Yorkshire NUM of his early days.

Routledge compares him, plausibly, to a revivalist preacher. He expects total submission from adherents. When he temporarily found new allies among the middle classes last autumn, after Mr Heseltine's mishandled mine closures announcement, he demanded too much of them. More worried about their own jobs than the miners' they abandoned Scargill, and left him with his halo of self-generated glory, among a dwindling band of the faithful.

This is an unpalatable story that would be comic if it were not for miners' so sad. The child was father to an emotionally crippled man. Power, in the end, can't buy you love.

Life among the U set

Once met a charming Mr Churchill, who lived in the South of France. He had had the novels of Nancy Mitford bound into one book. He read the volume through and, when he finished, he began again. If he is still alive, he will add Charlotte Mosley's sparkling edition of the author's letters to his economical table. Other readers will be tempted to follow his example. I am myself.

For Nancy Mitford was a great wit, consumed by the pursuit of learning as well as of love. Her two best novels will surely live a long time. They will date no more than Restoration plays do, out of fashion in one generation but back in it the next, quoted to show what England was like in the last years of the empire.

The characters may seem surrealistically snobbish, but no more so than those of, say, Congreve. This collection of letters much enhances Nancy Mitford's reputation. The editor discounts any desire to supplant the two existing lives of the author. All the same, she has really written a "life and letters", the introductory essays to each section of the life being deft, and the letters both amusing and moving. The amusement was predictable, even if the wonderful flow of jokes, entertaining turns of phrase and original lights thrown on people or events is far richer than even Nancy Mitford's friends may have anticipated.

There was, however, a serious side to Nancy Mitford, since she considered her writing the most important thing in her life. Many of the best letters here, to Evelyn Waugh and Raymond Mortimer, are about her work.

There are also numerous sad letters to Gaston Palewski, with whom Nancy was in love. Palewski, *chef de cabinet*, minister, and ambassador of De Gaulle, was a man for whom marriage was "une terre promise vers laquelle on se promène lentement". He did not marry (someone else) till he was 67.

Finally, there are many brave, distressing letters as Nancy died slowly from Hodgkins disease between 1968 and 1973. It is moving to see how she completed in those years her life of Frederick the Great, whom she felt able to treat as a Frenchman, and how she endured her last hours reading even more, finding Gibbon especially satisfying when in pain.

It is the combination of moods expressed as well as the tales of two cities, which makes this collection so interesting and even unique.

It was chiefly because of her attachment to Palewski that Nancy Mitford, enriched by the phenomenal success of *The Pursuit of Love*, went to live in Paris after the war. That in turn created her life as a letter-writer, since it was by post that she kept in touch with her varied relations and friends left behind in dull old Blighty. Both Harold Acton and Selina Hastings, in their fine books, left the impression that

because of Palewski's incorrigible philandering and lack of commitment, Nancy lived unhappily throughout the 1950s. Certainly in respect of required love her life was unfulfilled. But perhaps Nancy was doomed to be unfortunate in her choice of men: Hamish Erskine, her first fiancé, was a homosexual, her husband, Peter Rodd a rake (though she always insisted "not nobody"), and her only recorded minor affair, with a Free French officer in the war, led to an operation which left her unable to have the children she very much desired (when informed of this operation, Nancy Mitford's mother, Lady Redesdale, was untroubled; she thought that women had as many ovaries as sturgeons have caviar).

But the letters suggest that Palewski or no, life in the Rue Monsieur — where Nancy had a charming house for about 20 years from 1947 to 1967 — was, anyway, nearly as delightful as it seemed. Bertrand Russell, a distant relation, asked her in 1952 if she was happy. "Perfectly happy from morning to night," was her reply. "Good



Nancy Mitford aged 30, pictured in 1934 at Rose Cottage, Strand-on-the-Green, soon after marrying Peter Rodd

gracious," said Russell. "You're the first person I've ever met who said that." Charlotte Mosley is a splendid editor. The tone of her linking paragraphs assures us that she showed good judgement as to what to include and to what to leave out.

Some of the letters are sharp even about the sisters on whom Nancy relied so much.

But the great contribution of the collection is the way it brings back the atmosphere at the Rue Monsieur, windows on both courtyard and garden, jokes about Cyril Connolly and the regent Orson (of whom Nancy would talk as if they were contemporaries), remorseless teasing of Americans, high gossip about a new French government, hand

stoking of the prominent pole (symbolic of Nancy's frugal frame of mind), and exquisite lunches prepared by the resourceful and pious Marie.

The book will leave most readers (apart from those from the United States) regretting that they did not know all the author's correspondents, particularly Violet Hamersley, "the Widow", whose pessimism was a foil to Nancy's

view that life usually appears in "a rosy light". "Somehow, one rather hoped they would be unhappy", a remark made about a newly married couple, was Mrs Hamersley's best-remembered expression. Only those who hoped the same of Nancy herself (there were some) will be disappointed by this marvellous book.

Helpers of womankind

Julia Neuberger

A PRICE BELOW RUBIES

Jewish Women as Rebels and Radicals

By Naomi Shepherd

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25

Beside my grandmother's chair there used to be a framed block of German stamps depicting the dignified, somewhat imperiously held, head of Bertha Pappenheim: the capon read *Heifer der Menschheit*, or helper of mankind. Pappenheim, my grandmother's heroine, is one of the women portrayed in Naomi Shepherd's fine new biography of radical and rebellious Jewish women. An unpaid social worker, she worked among prostitutes, campaigning for an end to the white slave traffic.

An unlikely character, traditional Jewish and feminist combined, Pappenheim was enraged by prevailing Jewish attitudes to women and described the passage from the Book of Proverbs "Who can find a perfect woman? for her price is far above rubies", which a Jewish husband traditionally says to his wife on the sabbath, as "a lovesong with gefilte fish". She was also Freud's original Anna O, the deeply disturbed and extraordinarily talented young woman, whom Ernest Jones, in his biography of Freud, described as "the real discoverer of the cathartic method".

The Jewish authorities feared and hated her, believing that any publicity about considerable Jewish involvement in prostitution would release even more anti-Semitism. But Pappenheim regarded it as a moral crusade. She founded a German Jewish women's organisation which campaigned to get women into senior positions in Jewish life.

Shepherd also records the lives of Rosa Posotta, a committed American trade unionist, who arrived in the US in 1913; Esther Frumkin, leader of the Bund — the Jewish socialists; and the well-known Rosa Luxemburg. But many of

the women Shepherd writes about in this impeccably researched and beautifully written volume have been hidden from history. Beta Kaminskaya, for example, was educated in Switzerland until the Tsarist government ordered students home in 1873. She infiltrated factories in the Moscow area disguised as a peasant. With her comrades, she formed a revolutionary organisation containing both intellectuals and workers, and was imprisoned in 1875. Kaminskaya never faced trial. Sinking into a clinical depression in jail, she was released into the care of her father, and eventually committed suicide.

Anna Kuliscioff became the lifelong companion of Filippo Turati, leader of the Italian socialists. When she died large crowds followed her cortege to the cemetery, and were attacked by Fascist thugs.

The question Shepherd poses is why these women reacted so strongly to their Jewish background (many barely mentioned it and certainly never campaigned on behalf of other Jews), and why their revolutionary zeal was so much greater than that of their male counterparts. She suggests it was a double rebellion — against the place of the Jewish women as much as against the conventions and oppression of their time, and that it was the combination which fired them.

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In a romantic tradition

For some years before his untimely death the critic Peter Fuller had been a thoughtful and admiring student of the work of Henry Moore. This was consistent with his talent for moving against the tide of fashion, for by the time Fuller had reached the conclusion that Moore was the last great master of the English romantic tradition, elsewhere Moore's reputation was under serious attack.

The charges against him ranged from the feminist accusation that he perpetuated "stereotypes of women" to weightier complaints that his sculpture was culpably irrelevant to the modern world. But Fuller had perceived the central truths about Moore, the man as well as the artist, and revered him accordingly.

The popular view of Moore is that he was an arch-modernist. Fuller advances precisely the opposite interpretation. He sees that much of Moore's achievement was in fact realised against the grain of modernity: that, far from being a pillar of the modern movement, he was in many ways profoundly anti-modern. When Fuller writes of Moore's "grand refusal" of modernism (which, by Pevsner's definition, involved "faith in science and technology, in social science and rational planning and the romantic faith in speed and the roar of machines") he has in mind, among other things, the eter-

J.W.M. Thompson

HENRY MOORE:
An Interpretation
By Peter Fuller
Edited by Anthony O'Hear
Methuen, £16



Henry Moore in Sept 1960

nal themes in Moore's major works — the human figure, mothers and children, the English landscape.

Evidently Moore came to be as significant a figure for Fuller as Turner was for Ruskin, and his appraisal of Moore's art is buttressed by shrewd insights into the man himself. Moore was, in his life as in his art, far from being a modernist in the Pevsnerian sense. He believed that art had

taken a wrong turning in this century (as, of course, did Fuller) and that he could recall many conversations in which he maintained, often with heat, that architects in particular (the chief exponents of the modern movement, after all) had in his lifetime failed society most dismally.

Revealingly, for his own way of life he chose domestic stability in an old house in a small village. The woodland and pasture which surrounded him there gave him great satisfaction and he hated to see the countryside "modernised". Unlike those modern sculptors who merely arrange meaningless objects to form their works of art, he attached high importance to traditional skills, whether drawing or carving, or modelling. It delighted him to obtain marble from the very Tuscan quarry that had supplied Michelangelo.

O'Hear has deftly assembled this book from the drafts and published writings which Fuller was transforming into a monograph at the time of his death. "Moore embodied a vision, a vision of man in relation to nature", Fuller's object was to capture that vision. If he had survived that car crash in 1990 he would have developed his theme more thoroughly, but this refreshingly sane polemic is nevertheless a powerful contribution to the reassessment which naturally follows the death of any great artist.

THE GREEKS had no sea to protect them from the Wehrmacht in the spring of 1941, and even the Aegean islands and Crete were quickly stormed. In Athens and Epirus, German conquest produced many of the same phenomena — as were witnessed in Paris or Prague, or among the pig-farmers of Jutland, not to mention King George VI's subjects in the Channel Islands.

Mark Mazower's fascinating book describes the everyday reality and terrible cost of occupation in enthralling detail. He succeeds in getting under the skin of the occupation. Everything is here from the high policy of the Germans (and the squabbles between different branches of Nazi power) through to the sardonic commentary of the graffiti artists of Athens.

However ferocious the Germans were when persecuting local Jews or executing hostages, in all probability what really antagonised ordinary Greeks was their venality. The occupying forces used their untrammelled authority to profiteer. Everyone associated with them did much the same. In places like Salonika with its large Jewish population, the combination of genocide and pillaging gave off the most repugnant odour imaginable.

The contrast between the Germans, their erstwhile Italian allies and their local hangers-on on the one hand, and the resisters on the other was stark. However much chance and unpredictable fac-

Roots of civil war

Mark Almond

INSIDE HITLER'S GREECE

The Experience of Occupation, 1941-44

By Mark Mazower

Yale University Press, £19.95

tors turned unlikely individuals into heroes, there was certainly little profit in risking one's life against the all-conquering Germans. Even after the German withdrawal from Greece, not even the members of the non-Communist resistance movement (EDES) were notably well rewarded, and the *andartes* of the Communist-led forces (ELAS) were hounded by the restored royal regime with the aid of the old collaborators, as Mazower shows.

WHEREAS the men of EDES showed many of the rumbustious traits of Balkan guerrillas over the centuries, the *andartes* combined atheism with a ferocious puritanism, essential to their esprit de corps, but which involved imposing rigorous discipline on the liberated areas too.

When local people would not side with them, they were ready to use ruthless means to make them choose resistance.

As elsewhere in the Balkans, and in practice throughout much of occupied Europe, what happened in Greece was as much a civil war ignited by the hardships and humiliations of occupation as a straightforward struggle against a foreign invader. Mazower shows how the post-war civil war grew to a great extent out of the wartime polarisation.

The British, often in ignorance of wartime allegiances, allied themselves with the side which included those most tarnished by collaboration with the Germans.

It is easy to feel distaste at the abetting of the victory of a regime dominated by sleazy black marketeers and their "respectable" cousins, but would life really have been better for most Greeks if the communists had won the civil war? The experience of their northern neighbours suggests definitely not. But anyone wanting to understand why the radical left had such an appeal in Greece after 1944 should read this book. It conjures up, in vivid detail, life under an occupation that had shattered old certainties and replaced them with painful choices, cynical compromises and hopes undercut by the daily death toll.

Mark Almond's book about Yugoslavia, Europe's Backyard War, will be published by Heinemann shortly.

Sports psychologist helps former world No 1 regain confidence

New Woosnam packs punch in fiery style of old

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

PARIS in the springtime is one thing: Paris in the drab, damp colours of autumn quite another. And it was not just that it was raining heavily as the golfers gathered for the Lancôme Trophy, near Versailles, yesterday. As they made their way towards the famous Saint-Nom-la-Brette course, they were confronted by police motorcyclists leading more than 40 tractors in single file.

The French farmers were revolting — not for the first time. They were beating about something or other this time last year as well. "Non au Golf," one sign said. "Non au chomage," another said. "Non aux Jochères," a third said. None, as far as could be seen, said: "Non au golf."

It is as well that Ian Woosnam was not inconvenienced in any way because, as a result of working with Dr John Allsopp, a sports psychologist, he has gone back to being his old combustible self. "I tried to get away from the boozie Woosie image I had and it wasn't working," he said. "John explained to me that it wasn't me, that I should revert to being myself. So now if I want to punch somebody, I punch 'em. He has encouraged me to let it all come out."

It was in July that Woosnam teamed up with Allsopp, who is also helping Peter Baker and Gordon Brand Jr to cope with their mental problems and is obviously good at it. They have won three tournaments since the beginning of June and Woosnam's form has improved lately, too. His past finishes have been fourth, second, first and joint sixth.

It is surprising that

Woosnam, who appears so cocky and confident, has had to call in a psychologist. "I always thought I was mentally strong," he said. "The trouble was that one day I was so good, the next so bad. My confidence fell."

His best year was 1987, when he captured five tournaments in Europe and became the first man to win more than £1 million in prize-money in a season. He could do no wrong. He won the Lancôme, played over a different course, with a staggering total of 24 under par, and flew to Muirfield Village on a high to represent Europe in the Ryder Cup.

After capturing Europe to an historic first victory in the United States, Tony Jacklin said of the Welshman: "Look at his titchy little feet. He can't walk down the fairway fast enough. What a great bloke he is."

Since then, Woosnam's form has fluctuated and the uncertainties of it all had begun to worry him. He began to feel the pressure. "People who don't know anything about golf were giving me advice, that sort of thing," he said.

"I'm buying a house in Jersey, selling a house in Oswestry. Am I getting the right price for one, paying the right price for the other? I didn't think these sort of things were affecting me but John says they were."

"He has showed me how to work them out. He is trying to get me back to the level I was when I was world No 1. He says that if I can get my attitude to where my golf is, then I could be unbeatable."

Victory in Paris this week

would underline that the change in Woosnam's thinking was working. Victory in his singles in the Ryder Cup on Sunday week would confirm it. He has lost his five Ryder Cup singles matches.

The reason behind such a poor record, he feels, is that he has been putting too much pressure on himself by thinking of how he must win to help his team-mates. Thus, he has been unable to play as well in the Ryder Cup as he has when representing himself, like in the Work Match Play Championship.

"I'm just going to play for myself now, my personal pride," he said.

□ Laura Davies chases back-to-back victories when she defends her title in the BMW Italian Open, which begins at Lignano, near Venice, tomorrow.

Davies, winner of the English Open two weeks ago, has won the Italian crown three times since 1987 and another success would help her capture the Spalding Order of Merit for a record fourth time. She is £13,815 behind Karen Lunn, the British Open champion, from Australia, who leads with 666.266 from five tournaments this season. Lunn is not playing in the French Open, the last of two remaining tournaments, next month and if Davies can take the £15,750 winner's cheque this week, she will overtake her.

Lora Fairclough, from Lancashire, Federica Dassu, of Italy, and the Australian pair, Corinne Diboah and Mardi Lunn, are other winners of European titles this year among the 89-strong field.



Woosnam is adopting a more individual approach to the Ryder Cup.

England left to play for minor places

ENGLAND played their best game so far in the men's Junior World Cup hockey tournament when drawing 1-1 with Germany in Terrassa, Spain, yesterday but will still be playing off for fifth to eighth places (Sydney Friskin writes).

This fast and furious game could have gone either way as both sides missed chances. All five matches between them this season have been drawn and each side seemed to know what the other was going to do. The England attack looked more resolute with better support from behind from Waugh, Wyatt and Sutton. Mason again distinguished himself in goal with a succession of superb saves.

A short corner to England in the third minute gave way to another and from the scramble that followed, Conway put England ahead. Bjorn Michel equalised from a short corner in the twentieth minute. England settled into third place in pool A behind Germany and Holland. After overcoming easy opposition from Cuba, Egypt and Malaysia, they flourished when the pressure was on.

Cook at crossroads

BOXING: James Cook, the former British and European super-middleweight champion, meet Fidel Castro Smith, of Sheffield, for the British title at the Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre tonight (Srikumar Sen writes). If Cook, 34, wins he will join the lengthening queue of British super-middleweight challengers for a world title of one kind or another. If he loses, he could retire. Cook, who has been knocked out five times inside five rounds, has disposed of Errol Christie, Brian Schumacher, Frank Winterstein, Mark Kaylor and Tarmo Uuivirta inside the distance. But he will almost certainly have to go all the way to defeat Smith.

Middlesex take title

BOWLS: Pat Launders, Joan Staples, Robin Bellion and Garry Little, from Middlesex, won the Liverpool Victoria Cancer Research All England mixed fours championship at Norwich yesterday, beating a Warwickshire four, skipped by Cliff Jones, 28-16, in the final. The Cambridge Park four led 9-7 after seven ends but dominated the middle of the game, scoring 14 shots without reply in a spell of five ends to lead 23-9. Middlesex beat a Hampshire four, skipped by Ian White, 26-9, in the semi-final, and Warwickshire overcame a strong Hertfordshire four, skipped by Andrew Briden, 21-12.

Peugeot makes plans

MOTOR RACING: Peugeot, the French car manufacturer, announced yesterday it would enter Formula One racing next year by building a V10 engine for a team to be announced soon. The French sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, said Peugeot would probably join forces with the Larrousse team. Peugeot, already involved in motor rallying and in sports car racing, said in a statement that recent decisions by the world governing body, FISA, made it worthwhile to enter the championship. Automobiles Peugeot is a unit of PSA Peugeot Citroën, France's biggest privately owned car company.

Operation for Watson

BOXING: Michael Watson will undergo another brain operation in his struggle to overcome the injuries sustained in the WBO super-middleweight championship contest against Chris Eubank two years ago. The operation involves relieving the pressure of fluid building up in Watson's brain. The surgeon, Peter Hamlyn, says Watson's rate of progress has slowed in the past few months. He admitted the operation involves an element of risk. "Michael knows the risks and is determined to do everything he can to give himself the best chance of as full a recovery as possible," he said.

Budweiser make deal

BASKETBALL: An American beer has succeeded a Danish lager as the sponsor of British basketball. Budweiser announced yesterday a three-year, £1 million deal that begins tomorrow with the start of the season. Last season, brought the end of Carlsberg's eight-year involvement. Budweiser's entry was welcomed by the league chairman, Kevin Routledge, who said: "Budweiser are committed to the growth of the sport and will be working with us closely to spread the word and ensure that the basketball boom is sustained and strengthened."

Gifford boosts morale while Leng enjoys romances

By Jenny MacArthur



Davidson: second

KRISTINA Gifford, the winner of the individual silver medal at the European three-day event championships in Germany last week, heads a formidable list of entries for the Blenheim Audi Horse Trials in Oxfordshire, which begin today. She rides the relatively inexperienced Mid-night Blue II.

The three-star event has attracted virtually every leader. The British, in need of a morale-booster after the failure of their teams both at Burghley and in Germany, should have some compensation this weekend.

Virginia Leng, who was seventh in Germany, is riding the promising Wotton Romance. Ian Stark, the former European champion, has his

Badminton prospect, Stanwick Ghost, and Pippa Nolan, a former national champion, competing with her Bramham winner, Metronome.

The foreign entry is the strongest in the four-year history of the event. Blenheim is one of the last events for riders chasing points in the Land Rover World Rider Rankings, which has a £10,000 first prize, and seven of the leading ten riders are competing.

Andrew Nicholson, of New Zealand, the leader, and Bruce Davidson, of the United States, who is tying second, both compete.

Nicholson, who won Blenheim in 1991 and was runner-up at the inaugural event the previous year, is riding the nine-year-old Ferndale Charlie Brown. Davidson, a dual world champion, rides Squelch, a seven-year-old

on which he had an impressive win at Dautney this summer.

Other riders in the top ten include Marina Lohet, of Germany, and Mark Todd, New Zealand's dual Olympic champion. Lohet, 25, a former pupil of Alison Oliver, has one of the most experienced horses in the field in Sundance Kid, her reserve horse for the European championships. Most of the other international competitors are riding their young, less experienced horses. The Blenheim course is an inviting but technical one that makes it an ideal stepping-stone to the four-star events of Burghley and Badminton.

Leng, competing in her last event before her marriage to Michael Elliot, a Gloucestershire farmer, next month, has a similar outlook with Wotton

Romance. The seven-year-old mare, by Wotton Louis, was scheduled to compete in Saumur in May but was withdrawn after he knocked a fetlock. Since then he has impressed both at Gatcombe and Thirlestane.

Leng has a high regard for Blenheim. It was at the inaugural event in 1990 that her present top horse, Wotton Houdini, started his international career. They were fourteen. This year Houdini won Badminton and, in Germany last week, was on his way to giving Leng her fourth European individual title until incurring 20 jumping penalties on the steeplechase — after being distracted by the cheering crowds.

Land Rover FEI world rider rankings: 1. A Nicholson (NZ), 27 pts; 2. B Davidson (US), 22.5; 3. M Lohet (Ger), 19.0; 4. A Houdini (GB), 16.2; 5. V Leng (NZ), 17.7; 6. M C Dwyer (Ire), 17.0; 7. K Gifford (GB), 16.5.

"Hello over there; as this is SUCH a long distance call, I've joined Mercury specially. It was EASY and



Braves two steps ahead of Giants

By Robert Kirley

TOM Glavine pitched the Atlanta Braves to a 10-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday for his nineteenth win of the season. His fifth successive triumph pushed Atlanta 2½ games ahead of the San Francisco Giants in the National League West.

Glavine, who has lost five times, is on course to become the first pitcher to win 20 games three years in a row since Ferguson Jenkins, of the Chicago Cubs, did it six years in a row, from 1967-72. Last weekend the Giants lost the division lead they had held since May 10. On August 11 they were nine games in front of the Braves. They lost to the Cubs 8-1 on Tuesday for their eighth successive defeat.

The Giants won a coin toss to host a one-game play-off on October 4 if they finish their 162-game schedule level with Atlanta. The Braves finish the season with a three-game home series against Colorado, who have not defeated them in ten attempts. The Giants end with a four-game visit to Los Angeles, where the Dodgers

would like to get even for 1991, when the Giants bumped them off and the Braves took the division by a game.

On August 20, the Montreal Expos trailed the Philadelphia Phillies by 14½ games in the National League East. With 18 games to go, the Expos are 4½ adrift. The red-hot team has won seven in a row, 16 of 17, and 19 of 21. The Phillies have lost six of their last eight.

Darryl Kile, of the Houston Astros, pitched a no-hitter in a 7-1 victory over the New York Mets. Kile, 24, retired the last 17 batters he faced.

Pending approval by the players' association, the major leagues will adopt a three-division alignment next season and double the number of play-off teams, from two to four. The division winners and one wild-card team in each league will take part.

1994 ALIGNMENT: National League: East: Atlanta, Florida, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia; Central: Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, West: Colorado, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco; American League: East: Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, New York, Toronto; Central: Chicago, Cleveland, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minnesota; West: California, Oakland, Seattle, Texas.

"Yes, you're no CHUMP, whoever you are."



BASEBALL DETAILS

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Colorado 9, Houston 4 and 6-5; St. Louis 1, Pittsburgh 1, Florida 0
 18 runs, 1st, Atlanta 10, Cincinnati 3, New
 York Yankees 1, Philadelphia 1, St. Louis 1
 9, Los Angeles 5, San Diego 3, Chicago 6,
 San Francisco 1

East division			
	W	L	Pct
Phil. Phillies	85	57	.607
Montreal Expos	65	61	.516
St. Louis Cardinals	75	61	.552
Chicago Cubs	72	70	.507
Pittsburgh Pirates	66	78	.458
Atlanta Braves	60	84	.417
New York Mets	49	96	.338

West division			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta Braves	92	53	.634
San Francisco Giants	85	61	.584
Houston Astros	76	62	.552
LA Dodgers	73	71	.507
San Diego Padres	66	78	.458
Colorado Rockies	58	86	.397
San Diego Padres	47	96	.330

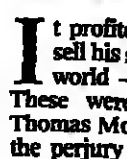
American League: Baltimore 11, Boston 4, Oakland 9, Minnesota 3, Cleveland 2,
 Texas 2, Detroit 9, Detroit 5, New York
 Yankees 12, Oakland 5, Chicago White
 Sox 8, Kansas City 3, California 9, Seattle 2

East division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto Blue Jays	82	63	.566
NY Yankees	81	68	.545
Cal. Angels	75	69	.519
Detroit Tigers	70	70	.500
Boston Red Sox	70	70	.500
Minnesota Twins	64	72	.471
Washington Brewers	61	75	.446

West division			
	W	L	Pct
Chicago White Sox	81	63	.562
Seattle Mariners	78	67	.538
Los Angeles Angels	75	69	.519
San Diego Padres	70	70	.500
California Angels	64	70	.471
Oakland A's	58	80	.420

Wild romantic enchanted by Olympic obsession

Simon Barnes discovers the drive and power behind Bob Scott, leader of the Manchester 2000 bid



It profits not a man to sell his soul for the whole world — but for Wales? These were the words of Thomas More in response to the perjury of Richard Rich in a *A Man for All Seasons*. Rich had been rewarded for his treachery with the post of secretary of state for Wales.

It profits not a man to sell his soul for the whole world — but for Manchester? Bob Scott's endless campaigning for the 2000 Manchester Olympic Games has cost him a marriage and nine years of his life. Manchester has already gained £70 million of government money to spend on sports facilities, plus an appreciable rise in national and global stature. Scott has already gained celebrity status and the ears of the prime minister and Princess Royal.

There is no doubt the Manchester Olympic bid centres on Scott. Everything revolves around him: his charm, his loquacity, his calculated informality, his careful indiscretions, his ambition, his delight in the whole business. This is not a faceless, state-sponsored project. The Manchester Olympic bid has a face: pudgy, bespectacled and animated.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. Atlanta's successful bid for the 1996 Games was based on Billy Payne, with his diphthongal southern accent and his pudgy, bespectacled, animated face. Both men are prone to flights of wild romanticism, which could seem laughable but doesn't. Payne's romanticism got Atlanta the Games; Scott's romanticism got Manchester the 70 million quid and the biggest commitment to sport made by a British government.

"We are pygmies compared to the Victorians and Manchester is where it all began," Scott said. Exclamation mark spattered oration is his natural style, peppered

with self-deprecation, jokes, informalities and the occasional maverick obscenity. "And from the obscurity of some of the Industrial Revolution, this was where philanthropy was born! And I believe we can create a 21st century city — and the Olympic Games is the way to launch it! Look at our village concept! Look at the way we are reclaiming our derelict and contaminated land! We could be on to something very exciting — a leisure-led saving of the city!"

Scott apologised utterly unapologetically, and with just the right degree of self-mockery, for being "messianic". "Romantic? Absolutely! Of course I am! No city would benefit more than Manchester. The legacy of the Games would be colossal. No city would be more changed!"

Scott may be a romantic but that does not make him stand out in sport, or even in sports politics. All the people in sport have a thick streak of romanticism or they would not be in it. Scott's romantic view of what the Games could bring in his gift to a city could be vastly appealing to anybody with a romantic vision of what sport can do for the world. That is to say, most of the people on the International Olympic Committee — the voters.

And Manchester is a major player this time around. Scott admits he would be "mortified" if Manchester failed to finish in at least third place. "If we don't beat Berlin and Istanbul, I will be a bit desolate. If we lost to Sydney or Beijing or even both, I could explain it to you. But I'd be hard pushed to explain fourth of fifth."

The Manchester tide turned with the fall of Margaret Thatcher and the placing of Chelsea supporters in influential government positions. John Major and David Mellor were natural support-



Scott remains eternally enthusiastic and optimistic as he flies the flag for Manchester's bid to stage the 2000 Olympic Games. Photograph: Tony White

ers of the Manchester bid. Michael Heseltine, though not terribly Chelsea himself, was swept along by the vision of an Olympic solution to inner city decay. Government support: instant global credibility. The government has underwritten the Games to £2.5 million.

The disadvantages of Manchester are obvious to everybody outside Manchester. "We have lost the postcard war," Scott said. Manchester, short on terracotta armies and opera

houses, lacks glamour. "But the cynicism is greater in London than Montevideo."

The fact is that the name of Manchester has a romantic ring for many a foreign sports nut. "Travelling the world with Bobby Charlton is like walking in Hyde Park with the Queen Mother." Charlton and Manchester United are, for many, the very acme of romanticism. And Scott has played this, like all his cards, with great dash. He has forged many alliances, most importantly with Gra-

ham Stringer, leader of Manchester City Council. But when it comes to the swaying of hearts and minds, it all comes down to the nature, the rather overwhelming nature, of Scott.

"Something I love is sitting down in a tiny office, with just a secretary, and pretending to be an institution," he said. This is rather revealing: *l'institution, c'est moi*. Delegation does not appear to be among Scott's strengths. Everything bears his imprint and that is how Manchester

has travelled so far down the road to the Olympic Games.

Scott's father was a career diplomat, ultimately an ambassador, which is as near as any civil servant can get to *l'état c'est moi*. He was ambassador to South Africa when the Callaghan government was in power, one of the trickier bits of tightrope walking of recent history.

Scott's father, after establishing a career in arts administration, followed his father's line and has sought international influence

through strength of personality. "I think I'm a natural outsider," he said.

Maybe, but he is an outsider with a mission to convince the world that he is right. A remark out of place won me an arm-waving, finger-wagging lecture on why a sports-writer should be lobbying flat out for Manchester. "The fact of the matter is that Manchester and the bid has assisted in the process of changing the government's attitude to sport. I believe that if government is improving

its behaviour, then let's encourage it! I think sport enriches life. I really do, and we should be assisting it."

But Scott pricks his own balloon with nicely timed self-deprecation. He is nobody's fool. "Maybe my fervour is ridiculous but I don't care." If Manchester has a serious chance in this high-stakes game, it is entirely because of the romanticism of Scott. He would not have it any other way.

Diary, page 16

SPORTS LETTERS

Time for team of all talents

From Mr Roy Dean

Sir, David Miller (*"Great English myth hides same old problems"*, September 8) is absolutely right about the lack of skill in English football, but he seems to miss a vital point. There is plenty of skill in the Premiership and first division, but it comes almost entirely from non-English players like Ryan Giggs.

By a historical accident, we have four national football teams in the United Kingdom. This was no doubt justified when there were few countries involved in international tournaments, but surely this no

longer holds good when so many new nations are knocking at the door. After all, we field British teams in the Olympics and Test matches. Isn't it time that the United Kingdom was represented internationally by the best football talents from its four component countries? They could still play separately in domestic tournaments.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DEAN,
14 Blyth Road,
Bromley, Kent

From Mr G. W. Beck

Sir, Whilst agreeing with the sentiments expressed by David Miller, I find it remarkable that Colin Todd was included in the category of defender that is "unconventionally physical" and "for whom the ball is often only an accessory".

Todd was a classy defender whose skillful play would often draw applause from the terraces. His timing was superb and he could take the ball from an attacking player without that player breaking stride and realising that the ball was no longer at his feet.

His defensive partnership with Roy McFauland at Derby in the early Seventies drew people through the turnstiles. It was a joy to witness him and Todd playing together.

Yours faithfully,
G. W. BECK,
7 Titmus Close,
Corwell Lane,
Hillingdon, Middlesex

Pleasure to watch

From Professor D. Trotman

Sir, I wonder in whose name Rob Hughes, your Football Correspondent, was writing (September 7) when he said of the Marseille president, Bernard Tapie, that "we have all felt [he] was poison to the sport". Many people, not only in Marseille, have derived great pleasure from watching his team — especially that with Moser, Waddle, Papin and Pele.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TROTMAN,
Unité de Formation et de Recherche de Mathématiques Informatique et Mécanique, Université de Provence, 3 Place Victor Hugo, 13331 Marseille Cédex 3, France.

Caddies step over mark

From Mr Kingsley Fielding

Sir, As a regular follower of championship golf around the world, I find it less than amusing to be ordered around by caddies, some of whom appear to think they are as important as their masters. Of these, the posturings and shouts of Nick Faldo's caddie are undoubtedly the most irritating.

For example, may one ask by what authority she addresses the paying public to take no photographs? If the taking of photographs is to be forbidden, then a statement to that effect should appear on the entry programme and be enforced by the officials.

Similarly, if spectators disturb the players, again it should be a matter for the officials. There are more than enough of them.

If this behaviour is not curbed, it will not be long before we see a stage hand shouting at an audience in the theatre for coughing or rustling sweet packets. However irritating it may be, it is not a matter for such persons to take upon themselves.

The last thing the paying public wishes to see is people with delusions of grandeur strutting across the greens and shouting. We do not accept that from a club member, much less a caddie. A word from the Royal and Ancient would not come amiss.

Yours faithfully,
KINGSLEY FIELDING,
27 Brunswick Terrace,
Hove, East Sussex

Ode to organised loafing

From Mr Keith Gowen

Sir, As another cricket season draws to a close and all those lovingly compiled statistics disappear into *Wisden*, one cannot help reflecting on what a useless and yet pleasant pastime being a spectator is.

We are generously provided with a county cricket ground to read the newspapers, have a nap, gossip amongst ourselves, watch *Concorde* fly over, tune in the personal stereo to *Gardeners' Question Time*, catch a cold, wander aimlessly around during lunch and tea, imbibe strong drink without becoming violent and very occasionally see some poor unfortunate bowled out. At the end of the day there is, for some of us, the luxury of being driven home by a minder: what bliss.

The great and good Archbishop William Temple had a

phrase for it — "organised loafing", and he might well have been right — and in moments of extreme ennui I cannot help recalling the words of our wartime leader, which I freely paraphrase: "never in the field of human conflict have so many been benefited by so few" (except in the NatWest final), but I wouldn't have it any other way.

As the nights draw in, all we followers of cricket can draw comfort from those lines of another Englishman, who surely had us all in mind when he wrote: "if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" Or, to put it more poetically, roll on next April.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH GOWEN,
Westgate Cottage,
23 Westgate,
Cowbridge,
South Glamorgan.

Winning cause

From Mr A. Jeddere-Fisher

Sir, Professor Fielding (*Sports Letters*, September 9) suggests that the laws of cricket state that when a match is fairly won it cannot subsequently be lost.

The situation he poses can only arise in a limited-overs game. The laws (law 21) take no cognisance of such a contrived result and it must be for the rules of each competition to set out the very necessary provision he recommends.

The situation actually arose in an area final of the national village competition. That case was particularly poignant because the visiting side, who

were batting second, only attempted the fatal second run because the home-operated scoreboard understated the total by one run.

Unaware that the match was won, the last man was run out and the losing side won the tie on run-rate. The county association umpires left quickly after declining to adjudicate on the technicalities of the rules of that particular competition.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR JEDDERE-FISHER.

Apsley Cottage,
Kingsport Blount,
Chinnor,
Oxfordshire.

Private counsel

From Mr D. I. Gower

Sir, While I have no wish to disagree with the general mood of Mr Brian Mason's letter (September 9), I would point out only that his role as "personal counsellor" is entirely self-appointed.

On the other hand, as his support for my cause has been enthusiastic and unstinting, who am I to complain?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GOWER,
Hampshire County Cricket Club,
County Cricket Ground,
Northlands Road,
Southampton.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They must include a daytime telephone number.

St Helens urging contract reform

By CHRISTOPHER IYVINE

ANOTHER call for a reform of the much-maligned contract system, which has left a few players rich, but rugby league generally the poorer, came yesterday from St Helens, a club familiar with the problems from recent experience.

More than the failure to sign Scott Gibbs from rugby union, club supporters were aggrieved at the loss of Gary Connolly, the Great Britain centre. His departure to Wigan for £250,000 is one of the reasons Eric Ashton, the new St Helens chairman, is pressing for change.

Ashton, the former Great Britain captain, is fearful of the game's future without prompt action. "Clubs are paying out money they can't afford and it's tragic what has happened to Widnes, who have lost eight players since going to Wembley in May," he said.

His solution, which tallies with the new mood of financial realism at the Rugby Football League (RFL), is for every player to be valued on his ability, taking into account age, international status, and whether he plays in the first or second division. The contract payment should then be ten per cent of his valuation.

"If a player is worth £100,000 he should be paid £10,000 a year, apart from match payments," Ashton said. "It would make it harder for the rich clubs to entice players away from the not-so-affluent and encourage player loyalty."

The vexed issue of valuations, with players trapped at clubs because they are overpriced, is already exercising the RFL, which is considering a compensation advisory panel to assess a player's worth in the case of a dispute.

Maurice Bamford, the former Great Britain coach, who resigned as general manager at Bramley after last Sunday's defeat by Carlisle, has taken up his eleventh coaching position in 19 years, with Blackpool Gladiators, the former professional club, now a place off the bottom of the National Conference League. Allan Sherratt, the Blackpool chairman, said: "Maurice Bamford and Alex Murphy are the only two coaches who can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. We're delighted."

World of bumps and hairpins

By OLIVER HOLT

ATOP Druidale mountain, the west coast of the island stretched out below us, and Robbie Head cursed softly in his lilting Scottish brogue, embarrassed by a flat battery. Five smiling drivers' faces peered through his windscreen as they pushed his car away from the summit, and he jumped-started in reverse.

"Away with ye, wee Robbie," they laughed. "Away with ye." Like the wind that howled across the moors and ruffled the sturdy clumps of heather, he went hurtling along the narrow, tortuously twisting single-lane roads, the kind that provoke Sunday afternoon drivers into arguments over who should retreat into a passing place.

Jerking bewilderingly quickly through the seven-speed gearbox, accelerating fiercely and then braking sharply at the approach of a hairpin bend, Head sped faultlessly over cattle grids, past derelict cottages, over humps in the road that sent the car leaping into the air, and grazed its underside when it landed.

His blue helmet jumping backwards and forwards at the car's changes of pace, he headed unhesitatingly towards a ramshackle stone wall, swerving at the last minute to avoid it. There are no sand traps or tyre barriers to compensate for mistakes.

Past a blur of hardy spectators next, the multi-coloured, turbocharged Ford Escort Cosworth roared up one last craggy peak, and then turned on to a wider main road, where wreaths are placed intermittently at the base of roadside trees, tributes to riders killed in the TT races.

As he caught a car that left the start of the 31st Manx Rally, 20 seconds before him, the end loomed into view. Ten kilometres of treacherous travel in 4½ minutes.

Head, 24, from Kilmarnock, is one of the coming generation in British rallying, but he is out of the running for this year's championship. His Michelin Pilot Team Ford colleague, Malcolm Wilson, led until yesterday when a shattering crash on the eighth leg of the 37-stage rally left him badly shaken, destroyed his car, put him out of the rally and led to the cancellation of the stage.

He was leading by more than a minute when the crash

occurred. Wilson's accident left Richard Burns, who was lying second after nine stages yesterday, needing only to finish 23rd or higher to claim this British rally championship.

Red-haired and fresh-faced, Burns, from Reading, is only 22, and is already being tipped as the next Briton to follow Colin McRae into the world rally championship, and emulate his success of last month when he won the Rally of New Zealand, and in so doing became the first Briton ever to win an overseas event in the competition.

It is not the most glamorous of sports for a marketably personable young man like Burns. It's anoraks and woolly hats, squalls and biting winds, inhospitable roads, chosen because they are so remote

they can be cordoned off without too much inconvenience. "I can understand why it isn't the most attractive of sports to some people," Burns said. "But I never had any thoughts of doing anything but rallying. My parents sent me to racing and rallying schools when I was a teenager, and it was no contest."

"I've got no ambitions to be a grand prix driver. The two disciplines are just completely different, and this is my chosen route. There are no prima donnas here."

Wilson, who won the British championship in 1978 and 1979, was already battered and bruised after a crash at 100mph during the 1,000 Lakes Rally in Finland two weeks ago.

"That has really made me think about my future. I'm getting close to 40 now, and I think if I could win the British RAC Rally this year, I would retire," he said.

Wilson: badly shaken

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Answers from page 44

ADONIBEZEK

(a) A king who was served his own disgusting medicine. In his heyday he cut off the thumbs and big toes of 70 kings and made them scramble for food under his table.

ICHABOD

(b) So called by his mother because "the glory has departed" with the capture by the Philistines of the ark of the covenant in the capture by the grandson of Eli and his mother was the wife of Eli's unworthy son, Phinehas.

EHUD

(c) A left-handed Benjamite and one of the earliest Judges of Israel. The Israelites were smitten by Eglon king of Moab who, with the Ammonites and Amalekites, reduced them to servitude for 18 years. Ehud was chosen by God to bring the servitude to an end. Eglon was a very fat man. Ehud armed himself with a two-sided dagger about two feet long, took presents to Eglon, professed to have something secret to tell him, and when the two were alone plunged his dagger — blade and shaft — into Eglon's belly so far that the fat closed over the blade and Ehud could not pull it out again.

ABIRAM

(d) One of the leaders of the revolt, led by Korah, against the authority of Moses in the wilderness of Sinai. These dissidents complained that the Israelites were taking far too long to reach the Promised Land.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

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England captain shows heart of steel by leaving out his boyhood inspiration

Atherton signals end to Gower's Test days

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

MICHAEL Atherton will never be mistaken for Brutus. He is no orator (outside his bath-room at any rate) and has no known republican leanings. Yet, as his blade felled David Gower yesterday and left him stricken like some Caesar of the summer game on the steps of Lord's, the England captain could say with the noblest Roman: it was not that I loved Gower less, but England more.

Only last month, Atherton was happy to present the name of the batsman whom he first watched at the age of 11 and admired so much that he told his father: "When I grow up I want to be like him." But Dennis Amis argued long and hard on Graeme Hick's behalf before the Oval Test, got his way, and in the two subsequent meetings the captain has had with Amis and Keith Fletcher, the touring party emerged by a process of osmosis.

Initially Fletcher and Amis wanted a senior batsman in the party as a form of insurance. After that long-awaited victory over Australia in the sixth Test, Atherton's view, that younger players should be given first pick, prevailed. No vote was taken on Tuesday night: none was needed.

So whether Gower? At his age, 36, Tom Graveney had six more years of Test cricket in him though, like Gower, he did not know it at the time. England selectors never really change: brilliance is always mistrusted. Cyril Washbrook, famously, was 41 when he allowed his fellow selectors to co-opt him against Australia in 1956. Graham Gooch, it will not have escaped Gower's attention, has turned 40 playing better than ever, certainly more productively.

Gower is different. He does not lack alternative offers, commercial and media related, and he has never viewed cricket as the solitary point of existence.

He was let down badly last winter, when he was despatched for India after successfully returning to the side against Pakistan, and only at the weekend was teased by Gooch's peculiar advocacy for the West Indies tour, which will have creased the faces of Atherton and Fletcher in astonishment.

"His comments took me



Gower gazes at new horizons at the County Ground, Southampton yesterday after hearing news of his omission from England's winter plans

completely by surprise and came two or three years too late," Gower said. "What brought about the change of heart, God only knows. But it hasn't worked because my name is not on the list. Mike Atherton is the man in the room and he has his own very strong ideas."

"In as much as my hopes have been built up in the past few weeks, I am disappointed. I was ready for either possibility but I was not banking on my selection and by going down the avenue they have chosen, backing youth, at least the selectors have found a strategy for once."

"It is best to have realistic hopes but obviously one's

ambitions become less realistic as time passes." With a year of his Hampshire contract to run Gower must now decide when best to submit to retirement.

"If you are a betting man, you might suggest this is the end of my Test career," he said. "As time goes by it is harder for me to convince the powers that be I'm their man. The odds are against it and the likelihood they will return to anyone other than Graham Gooch next summer is diminishing."

"I'm not making any big, bold, rash decisions on the spur of the moment. There are options and Hampshire are very much one of them

because I have a year to go on my contract."

Mike Gatting and Allan Lamb should have less grievance with their non-selection, although Gatting fancied himself for the A team captaincy. Had Phil Neale not been appointed as the team's manager — and one wonders why he and Bob Bennett are required jointly — Gatting may well have got the nod.

Spin, spin, goes time's wheel. Ian Botham (Test debut 1977) has retired. Gower and Gatting (1978) have read the runes. Gooch (1975) will be required only if younger men fail and Lamb (1982) is free to return to South Africa, should he wish. In different measures

they will be missed — Botham and Gower most of all.

It is an odd world in which Gower is treated so unsympathetically and Chris Lewis, who was so feeble in the first two Tests of the summer, is co-opted. Atherton will tell Lewis to bowl flat out in the Caribbean, using him in spells of four or five overs, but it is hard to feel too charitable about his return to favour.

Atherton will probably never be in a stronger position to dictate his terms, and no one should doubt that this party bears his stamp. This tour, above all others, is the fittest test of a cricketer's mettle and can undo reputations as easily as make them.

Tour place for Loe rounds off his season of promise

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ON TUESDAY evening, Malachy Loe collected an award as the county cricketers' young player of the year. Yesterday, he learned he had also won the admiration of the England selectors as he was named as the junior member of the A team to tour South Africa.

Loe, just 21, is in his first full season with Northamptonshire and might be thought to have jumped the queue. Alistair Brown and Martin Speight, who both miss out, can certainly feel aggrieved. But Loe, tall and correct, has impressed wherever he has played this year.

The A team, confined to 14 players to compensate for the senior side taking 17, divides neatly into those who narrowly missed out on selection for the Caribbean and those who are maybe two years away from full Test caps.

Included in the former group are the captain, Hugh Morris, who also led the A team to West Indies two years ago, and his deputy, Alan Wells. There are also five players who appeared during the Ashes series, and another, in Dominic Cork, who has played one-day internationals.

Steve Rhodes, the wicketkeeper, and Robert Croft, the off-spinning all-rounder, have both made previous A-team tours, while Loe, John Crawley, Darren Gough and Adrian Dale are new to touring at this level.

The development of the opening partnership between Crawley and Mark Lathwell, both still 21, will be closely observed by those responsible for the senior side. Dale has had an outstanding season for Glamorgan and Gough, by taking 54 first-class wickets at 26, has performed the feat of carrying the Yorkshire attack at the age of 22. He promises to follow a great tradition of Yorkshire fast bowlers.

The party leaves for Johannesburg on November 30 and will play seven first-class games leading up to an unofficial five-day "Test" against South Africa A.

Tour parties, page 44

OUR BOWLER AT THE OVAL OFFICE - BARBADOS!



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Ranatunga and de Silva lead revival

SRI Lanka recovered from an early shock to end the second day of the third Test match against South Africa on 117 for three in Colombo yesterday, still 199 behind South Africa's first-innings total of 316.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, and his deputy, Aravinda de Silva, put on 62 runs for the fourth wicket in an increasingly confident stand after they had survived early chances.

Sri Lanka started poorly when Chandika Hathurusinghe was dismissed by Allan Donald with only one run on the board, the seventh successive innings in which he had fallen to Donald.

Brilliant fielding by Jonty Rhodes in the covers enabled Richard Snell to run out the wicketkeeper, Pubudu Dasanayake at 27 and Roshan Mahanama was caught at second slip off Brett Schultz shortly after bringing up the Sri Lanka 50.

Earlier, Darryll Collman had made 102, his maiden Test century, before South Africa were bowled out, 20 minutes before lunch.

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings	
A C Hudson c Tillekeratne	22
b Dharmasena	22
P A de Silva not out	25
W J Craig b Ramnarayne	24
D J Cullinan c Ramnarayne	24
J N Rhodes c Dharmasena	102
b Mahanama	7
B M Macmillan c Jayasinghe b Mahanama	2
T D J Richardson c de Silva	62
b Mahanama	30
P L Symcox c Tillekeratne	30
b Ramnarayne	13
R P Snell not out	1
A A Donald bowled by Ramnarayne	1
B N Schultz c de Silva b Mahanama	0
Extras (b, lb, nb, r)	11
Total	316

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-53, 3-85, 4-105, 5-128, 6-250, 7-261, 8-277, 9-305.
BOWLING: Ramnarayne 25-4-75-3; Luytens 21-4-85-1; Hathurusinghe 6-4-4-0; Dharmasena 25-7-1; Mahanama 25-1-6-24-4; de Silva 1-0-0-0; Jayasinghe 1-0-1-1.

SRI LANKA: First Innings
R S Mahanama c McMillan b Schultz 25
U C Hathurusinghe c Richardson 7
b Donald 1
P A de Silva not out 25
W J Craig b Ramnarayne 24
D J Cullinan not out 24
Extras (b, lb, nb, r) 11
Total 316

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-53, 3-85, 4-105, 5-128, 6-250, 7-261, 8-277, 9-305.
BOWLING: Donald 8-2-51-1; Schultz 13-3-17-1; McMillan 16-4-41-0; Snell 11-2-25-0.
Umpires: B Adkins (New Zealand) and B C Cooney (Sri Lanka)

Players take active role in re-examining laws

FIVE leading players travelled to Cardiff last month to meet coaches and referees from the five nations. The quietest included Olivier Roumat, captain of France in South Africa in June after the injury to "Jeff" Tordoff, and John Hall, the experienced Bath flanker who was with England A in Canada during the summer.

The object of the meeting, which has been held customarily at the end rather than the beginning of the season, was to discuss that old bugbear, the interpretation of the laws, which will rear its head again when the Australians tour France this autumn and the New Zealanders play in England and Scotland.

"I hope," one delegate said after the meeting, "that one of the referees who was there gets the All Black matches this autumn." He was referring to the internationals on November 20 at Murrayfield and November 27 at Twickenham and, inevitably, his prayer has not been answered. The matches will be handled by South Africa's leading official, Freek Burger, and the two internationals between France and Australia go to Col Hawke, from New Zealand.

Efforts to find a common interpretation of the law seem doomed to come to nothing. That may be a commentary on the laws themselves: too involved, with collaterals in note form that try to cover every situation that might arise. More worrying is that laws may also be set aside for marketing reasons.

Paul Burnell, the Scotland prop who toured with the British Isles in New Zealand, doubtless told the Cardiff meeting of the attitude of the local referees who permitted play to continue if they perceived "positive intent" in the actions of player: the concern was to produce a game of constant action that could hold its own against rugby league.

That is a simplification of an involved issue that touches on basic philosophies towards rugby union (no



DAVID HANDS
Rugby Commentary

structured and slow in the northern hemisphere, too loose in the south). You cannot go through Australia, without hearing talk about the "entertainment dollar", the perceived threat to New Zealand rugby when the Auckland Warriors rugby league side begins trading next year, the contempt with which northern-hemisphere administrators appear to be held.

The north, specifically Great Britain and Ireland, is perceived as putting an unjustified brake on the game's development and it is not hard to construct arguments supporting that belief. Every vehicle, however, requires some method of slowing, lest it career downhill and crash in ruins. "In certain areas New Zealand have gone too far," Mike Stemen, the assistant England coach, said. "Continuity at all costs could be to the detriment of the game. If we go outside the law and are not careful, anarchy sets in."

It is worth noting the significant contribution made at Cardiff by France, whose Marcel Martin chaired proceedings. For many years the French — or at least, their apologists — have nurtured the theory of an Anglo-Saxon refereeing



Roumat: enlightening

conspiracy designed to thwart their players; most recently in 1992 when Stephen Hilditch, of Ireland, sent off two iron-fronted forwards during the internationals with England in Paris. Roumat's comments were an enlightening addendum to the video presentation made of the incident and Patrick Robin, who refereed two of the games between New Zealand and the Lions during the summer, made valuable contributions to the rock-music debate.

The five nations discovered slight anomalies in their approach to aspects of law. There was an acknowledgement that in the north, and notably in England, the game is slower to adapt to law changes. That may be a national characteristic: we are happier with the devil we know than the devil we don't. Alternatively, no sooner have England discovered a game plan which earns them two grand slams than somebody changes the laws and puts them back to square one.

However the Rugby Football Union has established a working party (it can almost hear the ironic cheers from down under) which includes present players such as Rob Andrew and Jeff Probyn and immediate past players such as Paul Ackford. Its aim is to establish exactly what they want from the laws and then present a coherent argument to the International Rugby Football Board at the end of next year.

Meanwhile, we must wait for the five nations' championship in the new year to see whether they, at least, are playing to the same laws after the Cardiff accord. Remembering the tart comments of Laurie Mains, the New Zealand coach, after the Lions series, I cannot wait to hear his reaction after the internationals in November.

43

CHANNEL 1

- 6.30 Heathcliff** Cartoon adventures of a cat (28/40351)
6.45 Cowboy Carrot cartoons (4226142)
- 7.00 The Big Broadcast** presented by Chris Evans and
Ulrich Johnson (70597)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life** American game show hosted by
Bill Cobby (338245)
- 9.15 Film: The Trail Beyond** (1934, b/w). A John Wayne
western in which he is searching for a missing
young woman and a goldmine, both of which are in
the hands of the Indians. Directed by Robert
N. Bradbury (11245)
- 10.30 The Road to Avonlea**. Canadian family drama
serial (1) (94351)
- 11.30 Pro Celebrity Golf** The final round of the trophy.
Hale Irwin is partnered by *EastEnders* Mike Reid and
Sue Thornton by England rugby union international
Jeremy Guscott (1) (56937)
- 12.30 Sesame Street** Early morning series. The guest is
Bill. Unscripted from the cast of *LA Law* (1) (63696)
- 1.30 Alfred J. Kwak**. Animated adventures of a
musical duck (1) (65794)
- 2.00 Film: Girl in the News** (1940, b/w) starring
Margaret Lockwood. Thriller about a nurse accused
of poisoning her employer. Directed by Carol Reed
(230343)
- 3.30 How Low You Brought Me**. Animation (257500)
- 3.30 The Times World Chess Championship** Action
from: game five between Garry Kasparov and Nigel
Short, at the Savoy Theatre, London (125831)
- 4.30 Countdown** Richard Whitley presents the words
and numbers game. (Televised) (5) (5151)
- 5.00 The Bill** Captain Clegg's first, out what
happened to guests after they first appeared on her
show including the grandmother who tried a bar-
man and the parents accused of murdering four of
their six children. (Televised) (5) (616832)
- 5.50 Mr Magoo** (1959/67) 6.00 **Brush Task** A
series of sketches by the *Comic Relief* team, beginning
with the start of their topical season. This week
Albert Thompson and Tessa Langmead are in
Cleveland as the home team prepares to meet the
San Francisco 49ers (581)
- 6.30 Gamesmaster** Computer and video game
presented by Darren Fletcher and Patrick Moore.
The guests Sean Maguire from *EastEnders* (531).
- 7.00 Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zensab
Badawi (Televised) (Weekend) (991264)
- 7.30 Comment** Janet Crowe in a plea that voting in
general elections should be compulsory (402368)

8500 The three world Chess Championships. The first game between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short (12500)



A quizzical Tony Slatery, front (8.30pm)

8.30 The Music Game (S) See Choice (4535)

9.00 Witness: On the Bridge. (CeeFax) See Choice (22218332)

10.45 Go Fishing. John Wilson jacksies babbles and carp in the Wensum Valley and gives advice on mending a broken rod and making Norfolk roed floas (S) (161871)

11.20 The Times World Chess Championship. Analysis of game five (234807)

11.50 Film: Old Enough (1984) starring Sarah Boyd and Pam: Rowland Howe. Comedy drama about two young women from disparate backgrounds who form a tentative and unlikely friendship. Directed by Marisa Silver (J75447). Epoch at 1.30pm

1991), Romantic comedy
5:30 *Love and War*, Seinfeld
and *Seinfeld* (5:30)
6:00 *The A-Team* (1991) A
group of ex-convicts out to be
good with Faye Grant and
her mother (1991)
6:30 *Baywatch*, *Baywatch* (1991), *Bay Kamen stars*
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5.00 *WV* Jackson (347874) 12.00 Greatest
Hits II (33333) 1.00 *WV* Scream (765556)
3.30 *CNN* Coach's Choice (236090) 3.45 *PI*
The Movie (256415) 4.30 *WV* Movies 1664756
6.15 *WV* 1 from 1 (151143) 6.30 *WV*
(7750) 5.00 *WV* The Soul of MTV (8886) 5.30
Movie Non-Stop (9880) 7.00 *BB* Beans
and Butter (6142) 7.30 *WV* Movie Warrod (51822)
7.45 *WV* 1 from 1 (1637) 8.30 *WV* 1 from
1 (6655) 16.00 *CNN* Coach's Choice (329142)
10.15 *PI* The Movies (234687) 10.30 *News*
115413) 10.45 *3* from 1 (11598) 11.00

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CNN
 Five Past Midnight (6480272) 1.00 Hands
 Firm Chair (3021104) 4.00 JD Yvert (76291)
 6.00 Whiskeyman 1549491 5.30-6.00 Business
 Plus (93340)

CNN
 Twenty-four hour news programmes

CMT
 Country music from midnight to 4pm

No places for old guard as Lamb, Gatting and Gower are left out of squad for West Indies

England place the accent on youth



Alan Lee, cricket correspondent,
discusses the merits of the
tour selection for the West Indies

ANY last doubts about Michael Atherton's approach to the England captaincy were dispelled yesterday with the announcement of an ambitious, youthful party to tour the West Indies early next year.

"We want to make a clean break with the past," Atherton said, a sentence that consigned the distinguished Test careers of David Gower, Mike Gatting and Allan Lamb to history.

The party has an average age of 26 and the oldest members are only 30. Robin Smith, with 45 caps, is by far the senior player and only two others — Alec Stewart, who will be vice-captain, and Jack Russell, who, glory be, will keep wicket — have played 30 Tests.

"We have tried to view things long term and to build on the way we ended the Ashes series," Atherton explained.

It is a selection that deserves credit on several counts. Although six men attended the meeting with a vote, Atherton and Keith Fletcher, the team manager, were granted the players they wanted and both made a point of claiming responsibility.

They have ignored the distractions of one-day cricket and chosen a squad of Test players. They have identified talent and gone for it, regardless of one or two reputations. And they have refused to cling on to the coat-tails of experience.

My misgivings are two-fold. The selection flies in the face of history and reason by including only two specialist opening batsmen for a tour on which, as Atherton conceded, "we are likely to get an injury or two".

And by recalling Chris Lewis, England have offered the

carrot to one of the game's infuriating enigmas, when the stick might have been more effective.

The illustrious figures omitted will not be surprised, as Atherton had made little secret of his intentions, but rejection will affect them in different ways. Gatting will continue his county career for some years to come and Lamb will play next season at least. But Gower now accepts that his England days are over and the removal of that incentive will probably be the catalyst for early retirement.

"It is not necessarily the end for him in my eyes," Atherton said. "But he has to decide for himself what he wants to do." As, this time, captain and manager were in firm accord, whereas Fletcher favoured Gower's inclusion last year and was outvoted, the most rewarding batsman of his generation must sense there is no way back.

Seventeen, rather than the customary 16 players, were named yesterday, which can be interpreted either as a prudent precaution or dithering indecision. As expected, the most protracted debate at the meeting on Tuesday evening concerned two batting places.

They were won by Matthew Maynard and Mark Ramprakash, the effect of which is that Hugh Morris and Alan Wells will be captain and vice-captain of the 14-strong A team to tour South Africa and on injury stand-by for the senior side.

The seventeenth place went to Lewis, who can consider himself the luckiest cricketer in the country. His inclusion, following another summer of such spasmodic merit that he exasperated first the England



Atherton, the England captain, faces the inquisitive press yesterday after the announcement of his party to tour the West Indies for a five-Test series during the winter

management and then many at his county club, Nottinghamshire, does not sit comfortably with the stated desire for players of "spirit and character".

It is not that Lewis lacks basic courage — I watched him gleefully indulge in a bungee jump, which would terrify most, in Bristol on Sunday — but that he seldom punches his weight. In Test cricket, his batting average is 25 and his bowling average almost 40; something closer to the opposite should be his aim.

The risk factor in this selection was reflected by the captain. "We feel there is a great deal of potential there," Atherton said. "It is up to us to coax that out of him."

"I have known him a long time and I have no difficulties with the bloke. Neither he nor

anybody else should need motivating to play for England."

Hugh Morris would have needed none, for sure, but he is the casualty of the selectors' lapse from bravery into recklessness. Fletcher admitted that choosing only two openers was "a slight gamble" and, interestingly, did not promote Smith as a full-time replacement in case of injury.

"He could fill in here and there," he said. "But if either Atherton or Stewart was ruled out, we would call up Morris."

The exhausted subject of Graham Gooch's availability was rapidly dismissed. Quite rightly, having opted not to tour, he will not be considered, even if broken bones abound as they sometimes can in the Caribbean.

"I know him well," Fletcher

said, "and he needs to bat regularly. At his age, no matter how good he is, he would find it hard to come from an English winter to play out there."

Fletcher pointed out the fielding talent in the side, which is considerable, and Atherton expressed pleasure with the bowling options available within a selection of six seamers, two spinners and Graeme Hick's occasional off-breaks.

Alan Igglesden was preferred to Martin McCague, his Kent team-mate, though both will have their fitness closely monitored before they travel, and Andy Caddick to Martin Bicknell. "We think Caddick will do well out there," Fletcher said. "If he can reproduce at Test level what he does for his county, then we

could have a fine bowler in two years' time."

Peter Such was, predictably, the unlucky slow bowler, omitted after playing five Tests this summer in order to accommodate two men who spin the ball away from the bat, Phil Tufnell and Ian Salisbury.

In Tufnell's case, it is recognition of a splendid season with Middlesex; in Salisbury's, recognition of physical and psychological problems that have haunted his summer.

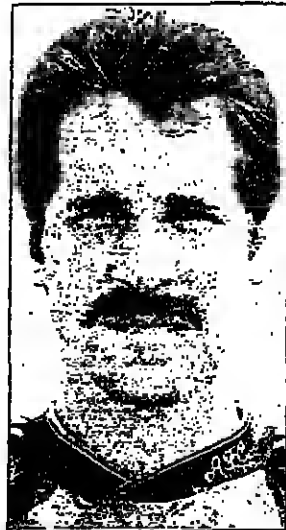
Only last week, a specialist report lifted the threat of surgery from Salisbury's troublesome right shoulder. A period of rest is advised. He gets married next week and, then, this gifted leg-spinner can plan for an adventurous role on what promises to be a compelling tour.

ENGLAND (to West Indies)			ENGLAND A (to South Africa)		
	Age	T		Age	T
M A Atherton (Lancs)	25	22	H Morris (Glamorgan)	25	22
A J Stewart (Surrey)	30	32	A P Wells (Sussex)	25	22
A R Caddick (Somerset)	24	4	M P Bicknell (Surrey)	24	4
A R C Fraser (Middlesex)	28	12	D G Cork (Derbyshire)	24	4
G A Hick (Worcestershire)	27	18	J P Crawley (Lancashire)	24	4
N Hussain (Essex)	25	7	R D B Croft (Glamorgan)	24	4
A P Igglesden (Kent)	28	1	A Dale (Glamorgan)	24	4
G C Lewis (Notts)	25	20	D Gough (Yorkshire)	24	4
D E Malcolm (Derbyshire)	30	25	M C Ilett (Essex)	24	4
M P Maynard (Glamorgan)	27	3	M N Lastwell (Somerset)	24	4
M R Ramprakash (Middlesex)	24	10	M B Lloye (Northamptonshire)	24	4
R C Russell (Gloucestershire)	30	31	M J McCague (Kent)	24	4
I D K Salisbury (Sussex)	23	4	S J Rhodes (Worcestershire)	24	4
R A Smith (Hampshire)	30	45	P M Such (Essex)	24	4
G P Thorpe (Surrey)	24	3			
P C R Tufnell (Middlesex)	27	15			
S L Watkin (Glamorgan)	29	3			

Captain: Atherton. Vice-captain: Stewart. Tour manager: M J K Smith. Team manager: P A Neele. Physiotherapist: W P Marlon.

Complete tour itineraries, page 42

Merson's strike brings Arsenal precious lead



Seaman: dived bravely

OB Odense1
Arsenal2

FROM KEITH PIKE
IN ODENSE
DENMARK

ARSENAL recovering their composure after a wretched start, took a firm grip on their European Cup Winners' Cup first-round tie last night, winning narrowly but deservedly at the Odense Stadion in Denmark.

Arsenal will welcome back Adams, their leader and defensive linchpin, with open arms for the second leg in a fortnight, his absence through suspension having exposed some alarming flaws among his colleagues. Eventually, though, the opportunism of Wright and Merson made light of the shortcomings behind them.

Arsenal, stringing five across the

middle to match the Odense quintet man for man and leaving Wright up front to forage on his own, obviously had safety in mind on a sodden pitch.

The treacherous conditions, though, could hardly explain the nervous start Arsenal had made. Within four minutes they could, indeed should, have been 2-0 down as Arsenal's uncertainty — Linighan's in particular — presented Odense with a couple of early gifts.

The first mistake was punished with a penalty. Arsenal had retreated as Henningsen advanced from the back, and were completely undone as the sweeper laid a 40-yard pass into the path of Thorup. Linighan sent him sprawling as he closed in on Seaman and his relief was obvious as Odense's leading scorer picked himself up and promptly sent his penalty kick against the outside of Seaman's right-hand post, the goalkeeper having dived the other way.

Within a minute, Linighan's misplaced pass granted Allan Nielsen another obvious chance, but this was sent into the side netting. Arsenal's luck could not hold, and they duly fell behind after 18 minutes. Skaarup, taking possession from a short corner on the right, drove in a firm intended cross which Keown, perhaps unsighted, unwittingly deflected just inside the far post.

It was not until Campbell was moved forward alongside Wright that Arsenal found space in which to operate. The move paid dividends with a 35th-minute equaliser. Wright was badly obstructed 30 yards out, an intricate free-kick move ended with Winterburn's low shot and, when Hogg failed to hold the ball, Wright, at his predatory best, shot into an unguarded net.

The crowd silenced and the spring taken out of Odense's step, Arsenal now looked comfortable. Wright

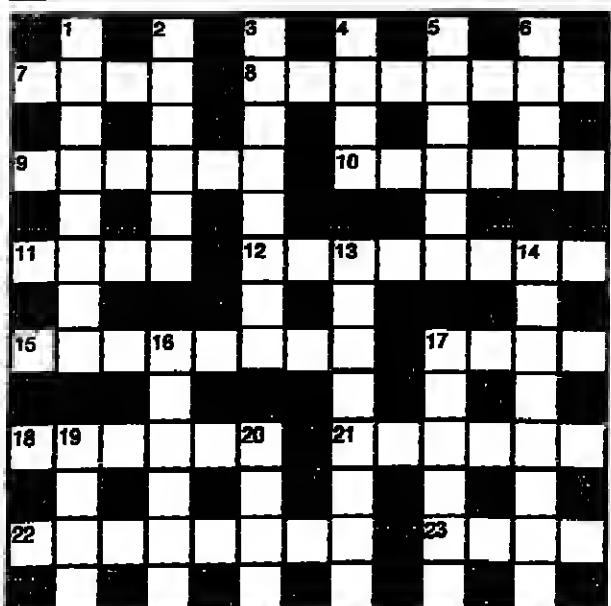
could have given them the lead early in the second half, Campbell flicking Seaman's long clearance into his stride but Wright seeing Hogg save at full stretch diving to his left.

There were still too many mistakes being made at the other end, however. Seaman, after an initial slip, did well to block at Tchamam's feet after McGoldrick's wayward header and, when Allen Nielsen slipped past two tackles, the Arsenal goalkeeper again had to plunge bravely among the Odense boots.

After 69 minutes, however, Merson gave Arsenal the lead, eluding two half-hearted challenges as he raced towards goal before sending a low shot past the exposed Hogg.

ODENSE (3-5-2): L Hogg — J Helveg, M Henningsen, T Sanglet (sub: P Hogg, Stenhi) — S Nedergaard, A Nielsen, S S Nielsen, C Dahlbom, A Tschamam — B Skaarup, J Thorup.
ARSENAL (4-4-1): D Seaman — E McGoldrick, A Linighan, M Keown, N Winterburn — J Keown, K Campbell, J Selley, P Merson — I Wright (sub: A Smith, ST).
Referee: A Cakir (Turkey).

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3201



ACROSS

- 7 Skin opening (4)
- 8 Comically incongruous (8)
- 9 Sculptor's rock (6)
- 10 "With it" (6)
- 11 Row (4)
- 12 Neatness (8)
- 15 Below norm (5,3)
- 17 Give game away (4)
- 18 Strabismus (6)
- 21 Surpass in guile (6)
- 22 Indolence (8)
- 23 Lean over (4)

DOWN

- 1 Career calling (8)
- 2 Limb (6)
- 3 Go round (8)
- 4 Run off (4)
- 5 Rock, wood bird (6)
- 6 Stiff paper (4)
- 13 Small rodent (8)
- 14 Hippocampus (8)
- 16 Panacea (6)
- 17 Wine vessel (6)
- 19 Wharf (4)
- 20 Pour in torrents (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3200

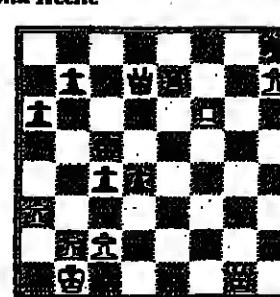
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CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times & Sunday Times Crosswords on computer for all IBM PCs and Acorn Computers systems and featuring the NEW IBM PC VGA version with super enhanced graphics. For a limited period £10.70 each. The Times Crosswords — Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14, 15 & 16 (Bks). The Times Jubilee Puzzles. The Times Crosswords — 3 & 4. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10 & 11 (Bks). The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords — 1 & 2. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to Akow Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs).

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Lasker — Steinitz. World Championship 1894. White is a piece down but the black king is dangerously exposed. How did White continue?



Today sees the 5th game of the Kasparov — Short match at the Savoy Theatre. For tickets from as little as £20 to witness this unique event ring First Call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 071 497 9977.

By Philip Howard

BIBLICALS

- ADONIBEZEK a. A sadistic king b. The Ephraimite Adonis c. A holy oasis
- ICHABOD a. An invocation b. A disappointing son c. A judge of Israel

EHUD

- a. A book of Talmudic law b. A minor prophet c. A left-handed judge
- ABIRAM a. Abraham's substitute ram b. Pharaoh's wife c. A rebel Israelite

Answers on page 39

Looking for that unique home? Alexandra Palace is open for viewing

For the 4th year, ALEXANDRA PALACE is hosting THE NATIONAL SELF BUILD HOMES SHOW. Come along and discover for yourself why last year alone, 25,000 people in the UK had a home designed and built especially for them. Having your own home built can mean up to 20%-30% savings on the cost of your new home compared with buying an "off the peg" house. And by cutting out the developer, the choice is all yours to achieve a "tailor made" home — exactly the way you want it.

The biggest self build homes exhibition in the UK features a stunning Elizabethan style showhouse and covers everything from finance to buying land, hundreds of house designs, building materials, interiors and seminars "A Step by Step Guide to Building Your Own Home." In fact you'll find everything you need to know about achieving your individual home all under one roof at the National Self Build Homes Show.

The National Self Build Homes Show
is at Alexandra Palace, London N22
September 16-19 1993

OPENING TIMES
10am-5pm Thurs 16th, Fri 17th, Sat 18th, Sun 19th September
TICKET PRICES ADULT £6, CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE
FREE CAR PARKING AT ALEXANDRA PALACE
Ticket & Information Hotline 081 546 5000